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TRAVELS

OF

MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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TRAVELS

OF

MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN

IN

ASIA, AFRICA, AND EUROPE,

DURING THE YEARS

1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, AND 1803.

Written by Himself in the Persian Language.

TRANSLATED BY

CHARLES STEWART, Esq. M.A.S.

PROFESSOR OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES

IN THE HON. EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S COLLEGE, HERTS.

VOL. II.

SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS.

Printed by R. Watts, Broxbourne, Herts:

AND SOLD BY

LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN,

LONDON.

1814.

TRAVELS

OF

MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN.

CHAP. XIII.

The science of Mechanics much esteemed in England—various uses to which it is applied—Mills—Founderies—Steam Engines—Waterworks, &c. Account of the modes of Engraving. Manufactories. Staple commodities of England. Public Illuminations on the Proclamation of Peace. Character of the London Tradesmen.

In England, labour is much facilitated by the aid of mechanism; and by its assistance the price of commodities is much reduced: for if, in their great manufactories, they made use of horses, bullocks, or men, as

cement of lime in this country which will keep out water, they cover all their flat-roofed houses with lead. I have seen some buildings, twenty yards square, covered with this metal.

The manufacture of needles astonished me. A bundle of steel wires was thrown into a wheel, which, at *one turn*, threw them out on the opposite side, cut into a number of pieces of the proper length: these were caught in a basket by a boy, who handed them to a person whose business it was to form the eyes and sharpen the points, both of which he effected by machinery in the shortest time imaginable.

If my astonishment was excited at the needle manufactory, it was much more so when I saw a *spinning engine*. By the turning of one large wheel, a hundred others were put in motion, which spun at

the same time some thousand threads, of sufficient fineness to make very good muslin. A few women or boys are sufficient to attend the machine, for the purpose of joining the threads when they break, or of giving a fresh supply of cotton. It must however be acknowledged, that the cloth made of this thread is not equal to that sent from India: it neither wears nor washes so well, which is perhaps owing to the thread being over twisted. The wire and the rope manufactories are also very curious. It is asserted, that they can draw or spin out either of these articles to the length of twenty miles, if requisite, without any junction being perceptible.

I accompanied my friend Mr. Kelby to his Porter Brewery, which was of an immense extent, and contained may thousand barrels. His steam-engine for raising

water was of the largest size; and he assured me, that if he had not that machine, he should be under the necessity of constantly employing fifty horses; the expence of which, and of their grooms, if added to the price of the porter, the favourite beverage of the populace of London, would render it so dear, that an insurrection might be apprehended.

The English are celebrated for their manufacture of *paper* of all kinds. I was told they could make a sheet of it twenty yards square; and during my residence amongst them, they discovered that excellent paper might be made of common straw.

The hydraulic machine for supplying London with water is a stupendous work. By its means, an ample supply of water is

raised from the river Thames, so as constantly to keep full a lofty reservoir, whence, by means of conduits and leaden pipes, it is conveyed all over the town, and even to the upper rooms of houses four stories high, to the great comfort and ease of the inhabitants. Besides this supply, there is generally in every square or large yard a machine called a *pump*, whence, by the slightest exertion of the arm, the water is easily forced: it is a very simple contrivance, and much preferable to our wells.

They have engines for expressing oil from seed, and others for thrashing and winnowing corn. In short, the English carry their passion for mechanics to such an extent, that machinery is introduced into their kitchens, and a very complete engine is used even to roast a *chicken*. I was also told, that an instrument had

lately been invented for mincing meat and chopping onions. The English are naturally impatient, and do not like these trifling and tedious employments; besides which, the expence of a common servant in England is eight times more than in India.

The art of printing being well understood in Calcutta, I have said but little on that subject. There is, however, another science, nearly similar, called *engraving*, much in use in Europe; of which I shall endeavour to give some description. This art is subservient to painting; and by its aid, the copies of a picture may be multiplied at pleasure, though generally on a smaller scale. For this purpose, a sheet of copper must be procured first of the size required, on which is spread a coat of thin white wax or similar substance; on this the outlines of the picture are drawn with

black lead; and the engraver, with various sharp instruments, then cuts through the wax into the copper: or it may be done by aqua-fortis, (as the lines drawn by a pen dipped in that liquid soon eat their way into the copper,) and afterwards finished by the engraver, who must also possess a considerable knowledge of painting. The plate being ready, the prints are struck off nearly in the same manner as books are. If it be wished to have them coloured, so as to resemble the pictures more nearly, this can be done by boys or women, at a very cheap rate. By these means, the copy of a picture may be procured for a guinea, the original of which would have cost a hundred.

On entering one of the extensive manufactories in England, the mind is at first bewildered by the number and variety of articles displayed therein: but, after re-

covering from this first impression, and having coolly surveyed all the objects around, every thing appears conducted with so much regularity and precision, that a person is induced to suppose one of the meanest capacity might superintend and direct the whole process. Whatever requires strength or numbers is effected by engines; if clearness of sight is wanted, magnifying-glasses are at hand; and if deep reflection is necessary to combine all the parts, whereby to insure a unity of action, so many aids are derived from the numerous artists employed in the different parts of the work, that the union of the whole seems not to require any great exertion of genius. Thus, in all kinds of clock-work, the wheels, chains, springs, &c. are made by different artists, and only require a person who is conversant in the business to select and put the pieces together.

The manufactories in which the English excel the other nations of Europe, are, cutlery, and all kinds of iron work; furniture made of the most valuable species of wood; leather of every denomination; clocks and watches; broad-cloth; satins and silks of various sorts; glass ware of every description; guns, pistols, and pictures. These articles are carried to all parts of the world, and sold to great advantage.

The sword-cutlers' and gun-smiths' shops in London are particularly well worth seeing, as they generally contain many curiosities. They shewed me a new-invented lock that, if the gun should be immersed for a week in water, the powder in the pan would suffer no injury; and they assured me, that it was even possible to discharge the gun *under water*.

It is customary in London to illuminate

the town, either on the King or Queen's birth-day, on the intelligence of any great victory, or on the proclamation of peace. Although I had seen a number of illuminations in Hindoostan, and was present at Lucknow during the marriage of Vizier Aly the adopted son of the late Nabob, when a fort five miles in circumference, with regular bastions, towers, and gateways, was formed with bamboos, and covered at night with lamps which required 20,000 men to attend them, yet there was so much sameness and want of variety in this display, that, in my opinion, it fell far short of the illuminations of London.

In England, on account of the uncertainty of the weather, all the lamps are composed of glass; many are cut with a diamond, and others are coloured; these are suspended either on nails driven into

the walls of the houses, or on frames of wood, formed into various figures and devices. When the lamps are lighted, and properly disposed, being of different colours, they can be so arranged as to represent any figure or inscription that is required. Thus I have seen a good representation of the King, and of the Queen, seated on their thrones, with crowns over their heads. But, as this is a voluntary act, and every person illuminates his house at his own expence, he is allowed to indulge his fancy, either in displaying the fertility of his imagination, or the extent of his loyalty, by the device he exhibits; and this circumstance produces a great variety of matter. On the proclamation of the late peace, previous to which the price of all the necessaries of life had risen to an enormous height, one of the tradesmen had the figures of a loaf of bread and a butt of porter very well imitated, in

a falling position, with the following inscription under them: "WE ARE ABOUT TO FALL." This device was the subject of much mirth and laughter among the common people.

These illuminations, beheld from the middle of a square, whence the four grand streets leading in different directions can be viewed, surpass any thing of the kind I have ever seen. The concourse of people, both in carriages and on foot, on these occasions, is so great, that I have been sometimes for an hour in one of the widest streets, viz. Oxford or St. James's Street, without being able to advance the flight of an arrow. In this situation I have been much alarmed, as the people are constantly discharging muskets and letting off fire-works on all sides; so that if a weak person was to fall in the crowd, it is probable he would never rise again.

On the third day of the rejoicings for peace, having heard that M. Otto, the French Envoy, had expended £.2000 in preparations for a grand illumination which was to be exhibited on that night, I resolved, in order to avoid the crowd, to go and examine the devices during the day; supposing, that however better they would look when lighted up, I should still be able to form a just idea of the plan, and should avoid all risk of being trodden to death. I therefore proceeded towards Portman Square, where the Envoy resided; but, on approaching the square, I found a great crowd assembled, and the mob abusing the Envoy. Upon inquiring the cause, I learned that the Frenchman had chosen for his motto, "PEACE AND CONCORD." Some of the soldiers who had barracks in that neighbourhood, having more courage than wisdom, and more skill in the use of

their swords than their pens, thinking he meant a reflection on the English, and that they were glad to make *Peace* because they were *Conquered*, began to break his lamps. M. Otto, surprised and alarmed at this circumstance, came out, and endeavoured to explain, that *Concord* bore no allusion to the events of the war, but was synonymous with Unanimity and Friendship. They would not however be convinced, until he agreed to change the motto to "PEACE AND AMITY."

Having been disappointed in my morning excursion, I determined to run all risks, and to see the grand display at night. Between eleven and twelve o'clock I left my own house, and attempted to go up Oxford Street, but was soon interrupted by the assemblage of coaches and crowd of foot people. I therefore turned off into

one of the cross streets, and, knowing that part of the town well, succeeded in reaching one of the streets that led into the square. Here I was obliged to lay fast hold of the iron railing, and, as opportunity offered, pushed on a step or two at a time. At length I reached the square; but the press was so excessive, that my clothes were torn, and I lost my cane. The women were at the same time crying out, for God's sake, to be liberated, or that they should be squeezed to death; but no one listened to their complaints, and most of them lost their hats, ear-rings, and necklaces. In this situation I endeavoured to return home; but this I found more difficult than to advance. However, after much perseverance, I got into a corner of the square, where, being more at my ease, I resolved to remain till morning should thin the spectators. In this plan I succeeded, and

was completely satiated with M. Otto's exhibition, which fell far short of my expectations, and by no means equalled Mr. Hope's in Cavendish Square.

The shopkeepers and tradesmen in London are in general people of education; in their dress and manners they are not distinguishable from noblemen or gentlemen; and are so courteous and polite, that, should the purchaser be ever so troublesome or litigious, they never give a rude or angry answer.

One day, a gentleman, either by way of a joke, or wishing to try the temper of a tradesman, went to his shop, and desired to see some broad-cloth. The man took down several webs of cloth, all of which were rejected: these were taken away, and another set displayed; but some were

thought too coarse, others too dear, and none of their colours approved. At length, having kept the shopkeeper employed for a whole hour, the gentleman appeared satisfied with a piece of uncommon elegance at twenty-five shillings a yard, and the tradesman expected to have received an order for at least five or six yards; but was much surprised by his eccentric customer's taking out of his pocket a shilling, and desiring to have the worth of that coin cut off the cloth. The tradesman, however, preserved his temper; and taking the shilling, laid it on the corner of the web, from which he cut a piece exactly the same size, and presented it to the gentleman. They then parted, bowing respectfully to each other.

My watch having met with an accident, I determined to buy another, but of a low price. I therefore went into a silversmith's

shop, and looked at several. Having at length fixed on a silver one, the price of which was seven guineas, I told the man where I lived, and informed him I should keep the watch till next day, when, if it was approved of, I would pay him; otherwise, I would return his property. Notwithstanding I was a perfect stranger, he consented; and I carried away the watch, for one or two of my friends to examine; but they all found fault with it, and strongly advised me to return it. I was however so overcome by the watchmaker's courtesy, that I was ashamed to follow their advice, and therefore paid him his money.

These shopkeepers will send home the most trifling parcel that is purchased of them, even from one end of the town to the other; and often give one or two months' credit to people they know no-

thing about: they are, in consequence, frequently liable to be taken in by swindlers.

One of the ladies of light reputation, who lived in the same street with me, contracted a number of these debts, and went off without paying them. Although she was afterwards discovered, and carried before a magistrate, as she had no property remaining, her creditors thought it more advisable to let her go, than to put her in jail, where they would have been obliged to support her.

CHAP. XIV.

Mode in which the English spend their time. Of the length of the days and nights in England. Mode of living of the English. Division of employment between the Sexes. Regulations respecting Women. Liberty of the Common People. Anecdotes of the Prince of Wales and Governor Hastings. English Servants. Liberty of the higher classes. Duels. Education of Children.

I SHALL here endeavour to give some account of the mode in which the English pass their time. The middling class, in London, divide their time in the following manner: they rise from eight to nine o'clock in the morning: their dressing employs them an hour; after which they sit down to the breakfast-table, where they

spend another hour: from that time till five in the evening, they employ themselves either in business or in walking and riding: at six they sit down to dinner; and if there is company invited, the men seldom rise from table before nine o'clock: they then join the ladies, to drink tea and coffee; after which they play cards, or listen to music, till eleven, when the party breaks up, and they retire to their beds.

It is thus evident, that for sixteen hours they do not indulge themselves in repose; and being constantly employed, the time does not appear tedious; the remaining eight hours is therefore passed in innocent sleep*.

* This is meant as a contrast to the custom of the East, where several hours of the day are devoted to repose.

Those who are unmarried frequently go, after dinner, to the Play, or other places of public amusement, and remain there till a late hour: others go to the gambling-houses, where they often stay till near morning. The common people rise earlier, and go to bed sooner than those above mentioned; but the nobility and higher classes have seldom done breakfast before one or two o'clock, and are never in bed before the same hours after midnight.

What I have said respecting the division of time may be considered as a general rule; but the length of the days and nights in England is so very unequal, that considerable variations will often occur. Thus, in the middle of winter, the sun does not rise till past eight, and sets a little after three o'clock; which, allowing two hours for the morning and evening twilight, makes the day, at the utmost, nine hours long: there

consequently remain fifteen hours of night. On the contrary, in the middle of summer, the sun rises at four, and sets at nine; which, with three hours of twilight, curtails the night to about four hours. But in the northern part of the island, I understand there is scarcely any night at midsummer, as, during the few hours the sun remains under the horizon, there is a twilight by which a person may read: and in the winter, their nights are full eighteen hours long.

The shortest day in England is on or about the 21st of December. From that time, till the 21st of March, it gradually increases; at which period the day and night are of an equal length. The length of the day continues to increase till the 21st of June; after which it decreases till the 21st of September, when the day and night

are again equal; and continues to decrease till the return of the 21st of December.

The English, in general, are not fond of high-seasoned cookery; and their dinners mostly consist of plain roast or boiled meats. But the rich, or higher classes, have a great variety on their tables, which is divided into three courses; the first consisting of soups and fish; the second, of roast and boiled meats, fricasees, &c.; and the third, of puddings, pies, and game; after which there is a great display of fruit of all kinds, called the *dessert*.

The regular meals of the English are, breakfast, dinner, and supper; but in London they frequently stop at the pastry-cooks' shops, which are generally kept or attended by handsome women, and eat something between breakfast and dinner. They also

eat bread and butter, or cake, with their tea or coffee in the evening; so that they may be said to eat five times a day; yet, as they eat but little at any one time, they cannot be called *gluttons*.

The English legislators and philosophers have wisely determined, that the best mode of keeping women out of the way of temptation, and their minds from wandering after improper desires, is by giving them sufficient employment; therefore, whatever business can be effected without any great exertion of mental abilities or corporeal strength, is assigned to the women. Thus they have all the internal management and care of the house, and washing the clothes. They are also employed to take care of shops, and, by their beauty and eloquence, often attract customers. This I can speak from my own experience; for I scarcely ever passed the

pastry-cook's shop at the corner of Newman-street in Oxford-road, that I did not go in and spend money for the pleasure of talking to a beautiful young woman who kept it. To the men is assigned the business of waiting at table, taking care of the horses and cattle, and management of the garden, farm, &c. This division of labour is attended with much convenience, and prevents confusion.

Besides the above important regulation, the English lawgivers have placed the women under many salutary restraints, which prevent their making an improper use of the liberty they have, of mixing in company, and conversing with men. In the first place, strangers, or persons whose characters are not well known, are seldom introduced to them; secondly, the women never visit any bachelor, except he be a near relation; thirdly, no woman of respectabi-

lity ever walks out (in London), unless attended by her husband, a relation, or a confidential servant. They are upon no account allowed to walk out after dark; and they never think of sleeping abroad, even at the house of their father or mother, unless the husband is with them. They therefore have seldom an opportunity of acting improperly. The father, mother, and whole family, also consider themselves disgraced by the bad conduct of a daughter or a sister. And as, by the laws of England, a man may beat his wife with a stick which will not endanger the breaking of a limb, or may confine her in a room, the women dare not even give their tongues too much liberty.

If, notwithstanding all these restraints, a woman should be so far lost to all sense of shame as to commit a disgraceful action, she is for ever after shunned by all her rela-

tions, acquaintances, and every lady of respectability. Her husband is also authorized by law to take away all her property and ornaments, to debar her from the sight of her children, and even to turn her out of the house; and if proof can be produced of her misconduct, he may obtain a divorce, by which she is entirely separated from him, and loses all her dower, and even her marriage portion. From what has been stated, it is evident that the English women, notwithstanding their apparent liberty, and the politeness and flattery with which they are addressed, are, by the wisdom of their lawgivers, confined in strict bondage: and that, on the contrary, the Mohammedan women, who are prohibited from mixing in society, and are kept concealed behind curtains, but are allowed to walk out in veils, and to go to the baths (in Turkey), and to visit their fathers and mothers and even female ac-

quaintances, and to sleep abroad for several nights together, are much more mistresses of their own conduct, and much more liable to fall into the paths of error.

DISTICH.

Let him who reads take warning!

[*N. B.* This subject will be further discussed in the Appendix; the Author having, while in England, written a tract "On the Liberty of Asiatic Women."]

* * *

Liberty may be considered as the idol, or tutelary deity, of the English; and I think the common people here enjoy more freedom and equality than in any other well-regulated government in the world. No Englishman, unless guilty of a breach of the laws, can be seized, or punished, at the caprice or from the gust of passion of the magistrate: he may sometimes be confined on

suspicion, but his life cannot be affected, except on positive proof.

I was informed, that the Heir Apparent of the throne, while one day walking, was jostled by an impudent fellow; that the Prince struck him with his cane, and chastised him for his insolence. The man, however, sued his Royal Highness in one of the courts of justice, and compelled him to pay a considerable sum of money.

Governor Hastings came one day to visit me, immediately after the hall door had been newly painted, and even while the man who had done it was collecting his pots and brushes on the steps. The Governor, not perceiving the circumstance, lifted the knocker of the door, and spoiled a new pair of gloves; on which he turned round angrily to the man, and asked why he did not in-

form him the door had been just painted: the fellow, in a surly manner, replied, "Where were your eyes, that you could not see it?" Mr. Hastings smiled; and when he came in, informed me of the circumstance. From these anecdotes, some idea may be formed of the liberty and freedom of the common people in England: in many instances, they carry it too great a length, and I have even felt the inconvenience of it. Their lawgivers are however of opinion, that this freedom tends to make them brave.

In England, no gentleman can punish his servant for any crime (except by turning him away), but must make his complaint before a magistrate. The servants in England receive very high wages, are as well fed, sleep as comfortably in raised beds (not on the floor, as in India), and are as well clothed, as their masters, who, in ge-

neral, prefer plain clothes for themselves, while their servants are covered with lace; nor are they obliged to run after their masters while they are riding (as our grooms do): if the master is on horseback, the servant has also a horse to ride; and if the former is in a carriage, the latter has also a seat either before or behind.

In their newspapers and daily publications, the common people often take the liberty of abusing their superiors: also, in all public meetings, and even at the playhouses, they frequently hiss and reproach any nobleman or gentleman they dislike. Another mode they have of expressing their displeasure is by *caricatures:* in these, they frequently pourtray the Ministers, or any other public characters, in ridiculous situations, either talking to each other, or conversing with *John Bull*, who, by his blunt

but shrewd observations, is always made to have the best of the argument, and to tell his opponent some disagreeable truths. In these pictures the Minister is always placed in so ludicrous a point of view, that even when he sees it himself he cannot refrain from laughing.

After all, this equality is more in appearance than in reality; for the difference between the comforts of the rich and of the poor is, in England, much greater than in India. The servants are not at liberty to quit their masters without giving proper warning; and, in general, they are as respectful in their behaviour as the slaves of Hindoostan.

The rich, or higher classes, also enjoy some privileges from this equality. They can walk out at all times, and go wherever

they please, without being watched by a retinue of spies, under the denomination of servants, as in the East: and if *they* are abused by the common people, they can also indulge their spleen, by abusing the Ministers, Princes, and even Royalty itself.

I can scarcely describe the pleasure I felt, upon my first arrival in Europe, in being able to walk out unattended, to make my own bargains in the shops, and to talk to whom I pleased; so different from our customs. It is not to be inferred however, from what I have said, that every man is at liberty to follow the bent of his own inclinations. There are certain rules established in society, and a degree of decorum to be observed, the transgression or omission of which would be attended with bad consequences. Thus, were a gentleman seen to enter a public-house, and to drink with

low companions, or to walk about the streets with a common prostitute, he would be shunned by all his acquaintances: and were he in any point to offend against the laws, he would immediately be seized, and sent to prison; or, were he to be guilty of sedition, treason, sacrilege, or blasphemy, he would be severely punished. Even the Ministers of the empire, when they find any ancient law or custom inapplicable to the present times, or even contrary to common sense, dare not boldly and openly propose its being cancelled in Parliament; but they endeavour by degrees to effect a change in the system, by proposing special modifications, uncertain whether the law may not have been framed for some good reasons not understood by them, but which may be discovered by their opponents.

Amongst the customs which are, I be-

lieve, peculiar to the British, may be reckoned their duels and boxing-matches. The first are confined to the higher classes, and are effected by the use of pistols or swords: they are now always fought in the presence of seconds or witnesses, who take care that no treachery or foul play is practised. The other mode is used by the common people, either to obtain satisfaction for an injury, or as a trial of skill. In these combats, it is not fair to lay hold of or grapple with the adversary, in which strength might get the better; but the whole contest must be decided, as fencing is in India, by skill and dexterity. If either of the combatants fall, the other must not strike him while down; but if it be discovered that one of them falls purposely, he is hooted and abused by the spectators. These combats are carried on with such violence as frequently to occasion the death of one of the parties. The loss

of an eye, breaking of the nose or jaw, or having the cheek laid open, is a common consequence. The lower classes are so fond of, or are so convinced of the utility of this science, that there are few of them who do not learn pugilism; and even many of the nobility and gentlemen encourage these matches, and argue, that it serves to preserve their courage and inures them to hardship. During my residence in England, I was present at least at one hundred of these matches: two of these were drawn battles, that is, both combatants were carried off the field with cut lips, broken teeth, and covered with blood, without either having gained the victory.

The mode of education prescribed for boys in England is admirably adapted to render them honourable, courageous, and capable of enduring hardships. They are,

at an early age, sent from their parents' house to a public school, where they are frequently obliged to contend with boys of a more advanced age than themselves, not only in a competition for prizes in learning, but often in defending themselves against superior strength. In this situation they remain for five or six years; during which period they must preserve a character, untainted by dishonour, and unblemished by cowardice.

The education of girls tends to render them accomplished, rather than to endue them with philosophy: they are instructed to sing, to dance, to play on musical instruments, and to be witty and agreeable in company. The children of both sexes are taught to reverence their parents, and to esteem their brothers, sisters, and other near relations. Perhaps nothing conduces more to the success in this respect, than the

single marriages of the Christians, where, the progeny being all of the same stock, no room is left for the contentions and litigations which too often disturb the felicity of a Mohammedan family, perhaps the offspring of a dozen mothers. The parents also endeavour, by an impartiality of conduct, to preserve harmony amongst the children; and if they have a preference for any one of them, they strive to conceal it as much as possible. If the children are guilty of a fault, they do not severely beat or abuse them, but either send them to bed, or confine them to their rooms; they also frequently reason with them, and excite them to good behaviour more by hope than by fear. Owing to this mode of treatment, I have often seen an English child of five years old possess more wisdom than an Asiatic of fifteen. Even the play-things of children in Europe are made to convey lessons of

instruction; and the alphabet is learned by infants, who suppose they are only playing with cards.

As far as I was able to judge, there are not so many dissensions or quarrels among relations in England as with us; the cause of which is probably owing to a certain degree of distance and respect that is always observed between the nearest connections: so that if the head of a family has it in his power to confer any favour on the other branches of it, they receive it with gratitude. Not so in Hindoostan, where the whole family depend upon their chief, and consider it *his duty* to provide for them, or to share his fortune with them; and if he does not, they are discontented and abusive.

CHAP. XV.

Analysis of the British Government. Authority of the Sovereign—Eulogium on his present Majesty—Condescending and liberal conduct of his Majesty to the Author. Description of the Queen's Drawing-room. Political situation of the Heir Apparent—Character of the Prince. Description of Carleton House. Duties of the Ministers of State—of the Chancellor of the Exchequer—of the Secretary for the Foreign Department—of the Secretaries for the Home and War Departments—of the First Lord of the Admiralty—Author introduced to Lord Spencer. Of the Master General of the Ordnance—of the President of the Board of Controul—of the Lord Chancellor—of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I SHALL now endeavour to give some account of the nature of the British Govern-

ment, and of the rank, situation, and character of the principal persons composing it.

The British Constitution is of the mixed form, that is, an union of the monarchical, aristocratical, and democratical governments, represented by the King, Lords, and Commons; in which the powers of each are so happily blended, that it is impossible for human wisdom to produce any other system containing so many excellences, and so free from imperfection.

The King is, of course, the head of the Government, and the source of all honour and promotion. It would be tedious and difficult to define all his powers; but it may be sufficient to say, that no law can be valid without his consent; that he has the entire command of the army; and that he

can pardon criminals condemned by the law and the judges.

As a proof of the power of the Sovereign, and of the excellence of the government, I shall relate an event that occurred during my residence in England. For seventeen years, the reins of government had been guided by the able hands of the celebrated minister, Mr. Pitt, for whom his Majesty had the warmest esteem, and the highest opinion of his abilities; but that minister, trusting too much to his influence over the King, and his general popularity, endeavoured to abrogate a law, in opposition to the Royal will, and to the opinion of some other members of the Council.

Thus circumstanced, his Majesty suspended Mr. Pitt from his office; and although that minister was firmly supported

by five other *Viziers*, who declared they would resign if their chief was not restored to power, the King dismissed them *all, the same day*.

This circumstance happened during the height of the war with France, and at a time when, unfortunately, the King was so unwell that no arrangement could be made for forming a new Ministry. For two months, affairs remained in this situation, and much business was suspended; but owing to the well-established laws and regulations of the kingdom, no confusion or disturbance of any kind took place.

It has formerly happened that the Kings have carried their authority to a great excess, and have attempted to govern the realm without consulting their Parliament, and even in opposition to it: in this attempt,

however, they have always failed. But nothing of this kind has ever been apprehended during the reign of his present Majesty, George the Third, (may God preserve him!) whose mind is an assemblage of every virtue, and whose sole wish is, to instruct, and render his people happy, rich, and good: for this purpose he encourages the Arts and Sciences, by frequently visiting the colleges and other public institutions, and inquiring into the progress and conduct of the students: he also sets his subjects a laudable example of industry, by devoting his spare time to agriculture and husbandry, without a due attention to which no country can flourish, but must ever be dependent for food on its neighbours.

It would be an endless task to recite all the praise-worthy and disinterested acts of his Majesty; but how shall we sufficiently

appreciate the merits of a monarch who could divest himself of all authority over the Judges, by conferring upon them *their offices for life*; thus relinquishing all those powers which stimulate and bias the actions of mankind, whether of hope or of fear?

It is for the reasons above stated, that for forty-two years which his Majesty has been seated on the British throne, he has been the idol of his people, and that his subjects are ever sincerely affected by every event which gives him pain or pleasure.

During my residence in England, I frequently attended the drawing-room both of the King and of the Queen; and in every instance, both these illustrious personages did me the honour of addressing me: and although I constantly had a gentleman with me to interpret, they conde-

scendingly commanded that I should answer them; and they were even pleased to say, they perfectly comprehended my broken English. When I had the honour of taking leave of his Majesty, he kindly inquired into my wants, ordered his private treasurer to pay me a sum of money, and his Ministers to furnish me with letters of recommendation to his envoys and ambassadors at those Courts which I was likely to visit on my route to India.

The King dislikes pomp and finery; therefore, on his Court days, there is not any grand display: but when the Queen holds a Court, the spectators are lost in amazement at the value and brilliancy of the diamonds, pearls, and every other costly ornament worn by the ladies, who on this occasion wear *hoops*, which extend the dress, and display the embroidery, lace,

&c. to the greatest advantage. These hoops are of a very ancient date, and are now never worn but at Court: some of them are so large, that a lady cannot enter a door without much difficulty. The men also, on these occasions, wear old-fashioned and costly dresses, either embroidered, or covered with lace.

Next in rank and dignity to the King and Queen, is the Heir Apparent, or *Prince of Wales*. During the life of his father, he seldom interferes in the government; and should he die before the King, he is succeeded by his eldest son. If he has no son, the right to the crown devolves to his daughter; but, in default of issue, it goes to the King's second son, who is, *in general*, the chief of the nobles, and commander of the army. By this well-regulated and systematic code of inheritance, all disputes be-

tween the brothers are prevented, and the blood of the subject is spared; no one daring to assert a right to the throne, unless duly qualified by law.

On this subject I once had a disagreeable altercation with a gentleman in London, who affirmed that the natives of Hindoostan were hard-hearted, treacherous, and cruel: and, in support of his argument, adduced the instances of the Emperor Aurungzebe confining his father, and destroying his three brothers; and of the wars between Behadur Shah and his brethren. I replied, that princes were not to be judged of by the same rules as other men; that if, in England, the only alternative left them was a throne or a coffin, such scenes would often have occurred in their history.

The present Prince of Wales is esteemed

a gentleman of the most polished manners, and of the utmost liberality and benignity of heart. His Royal Highness's principal residence is in the street called Pall Mall: it is a superb building, and contains many fine rooms. I went several times to view it, and was particularly attracted by the apartment called the *China Hall:* this contains a number of curiosities brought from Pekin: it is also elegantly furnished with the largest mirrors, and the most brilliant lustres, I have ever seen. Not the least remarkable of its curiosities is a *clock* resembling an Ethiopian woman, who by the motion of her eyes points out the hour.

The first time I visited Carleton House, the Prince, having received information of my intention, was pleased to order a cold collation to be prepared for my refreshment; and in every instance where I had

the honour of meeting his Royal Highness, he always behaved to me with the greatest kindness and condescension.

* * *

The persons of importance next to the Princes are the *Ministers of State:* they are nine in number, and by them all the affairs of the kingdom are managed. The *chief* of these is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the office lately held by Mr. Pitt, and now by Mr. Addington. He has charge of the revenues of the State, arranges the taxes, and superintends the principal disbursements. He is considered as the King's deputy in the House of Commons; and the most difficult part of his office is, to preserve a majority of the members in his interest: to effect this, he frequently gives to some of them appointments, and to others titles. By these means, and the assistance of those persons who are attached

to him either from principle or connexion, he is able to withstand the attacks of his adversaries, that is, the *Ex-Ministers*, or those that *would be Ministers*; at the head of whom, during my residence in England, were the Duke of Norfolk and Mr. Fox. Every subject that is proposed in Parliament is openly discussed, and determined by a majority of votes: if therefore the Minister cannot ensure the greater number of voices in his favour, it is impossible for him to carry on the business, and he had better resign.

Mr. Pitt was enabled, by his great abilities and wonderful powers of persuasion, to obtain always a large majority in his favour; and might be said to have governed, for seventeen years, with despotic sway.

By the introduction of my friends, Sir

W. Elford, Sir C. Talbot, Sir J. Macpherson, and Mr. G. Johnston, I had frequent opportunities of being present during the proceedings of the House of Commons. The first time I saw this assembly, they reminded me of two flocks of Indian paroquets, sitting upon opposite mango-trees, scolding at each other; the most noisy of whom were Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox. In short, during the administration of Mr. Pitt, all Parliamentary proceedings were perfectly nugatory, as, by his decided majorities, he could carry any measure he proposed. It is not however to be inferred, from this circumstance, that Parliaments are of no utility; on the contrary, they are of the greatest service. In the first place, they regulate the taxes for the year; they are a check upon all contractors and public agents; and restrain the Ministers within proper bounds, upon every occasion. Thus, during

the indisposition of his Majesty, when many sensible persons thought it was requisite that the Heir Apparent should be immediately appointed Regent with extensive powers; and others were of opinion that a Regency should be nominated, composed of men of the first abilities of the country, one of whom should be the Heir Apparent; the Parliament, having taken into consideration the many virtues of the King, and the possibility of his recovery, resolved that the Ministers and public officers should continue to exert themselves to the utmost in the execution of their several duties, until the physicians should be able to determine on the probability of his Majesty's recovery; after which they would decide on the measures that might be requisite to be taken. This wise determination had the happy effect of calming the minds of the people: and the business of the empire was

conducted as usual. Much to the honour of the Princes, none of them interfered during the discussion of this delicate question, but submitted their private opinions entirely to the wisdom of Parliament.

The Minister next in importance to the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the Secretary of State for the Foreign Department: it is he who conducts the correspondence with Foreign States, and transacts business with all the ambassadors. During my residence in England, this office was most ably filled by Lord Pelham. From his lordship I received the most unbounded proofs of kindness and friendship; nor have I language to express in dull prose my gratitude to her Ladyship, for the many favours conferred upon me. The third Minister in rank is the Secretary of State for the Home Department: this office was held by

Lord Hawkesbury, with whom I had not the honour of being acquainted. The fourth Minister, and who has charge of the War Department, was lately Mr. Dundas, but now Lord Hobart: from both of these great persons I received many favours. These four Ministers are superior to all the others, and may be said to have the entire direction, or, at least, controul, over all the affairs of Government.

The fifth Minister is at the head of the Naval Department, and is called First Lord of the Admiralty: his powers are much greater than those of the Commander-in-chief of the land forces. This office is at present held by Lord St. Vincent, to whom I have not the pleasure of being known. But to his predecessor, Lord Spenser, I am under infinite obligations. I first had the honour of meeting his lordship at

the house of Sir J. Banks, and, in consequence of this introduction, received frequent invitations to dine with his lordship. Lady Spenser is esteemed one of the most sensible and learned women in England. She often did me the honour of conversing with me, and listened with apparent earnestness and approbation to my wretched translations of Persian poetry. Her ladyship particularly requested, and made me promise to publish an account of my Travels, and to state my opinion, candidly, of all the customs and manners of the English; and, without either fear or flattery, freely to censure whatever I thought reprehensible amongst them.

The sixth Minister is the Master General of the Ordnance, who has charge of all the fortifications in the kingdom. This office was held by Lord Cornwallis, whose

kindness to me, both in India and in Ireland, I have before related.

The seventh Minister is the President of the Board of Controul: he it is who directs the affairs and guides the reins of the East-India Company. On my first arrival in England, this office was held by Mr. Dundas, but latterly was entrusted to Lord Dartmouth. His lordship is descended from a very ancient and noble family, and possesses a highly-cultivated understanding. I became acquainted with his lordship through the introduction of my friend Lord Pelham, and received many solid proofs of his lordship's esteem. At his house I frequently met with several of the Directors of the East-India Company, who, although *the Masters of the Governors of India*, were invariably seated below me at table.

His lordship wished to have deputed me as Ambassador to the King of Persia, and to Zeman Shah. The route he proposed to send me, was by Constantinople and the Black Sea, to Khuarizm; whence I was to travel to Taheran; and having settled the business at that Court, to proceed to Cabul, and thence, through the Punjab, &c. to Calcutta. I must confess I was alarmed at the length and dangers of the journey, and requested his lordship would permit me first to return to India; whence, after having seen and properly settled my family, I could without difficulty proceed to Cabul, and thence, if requisite, to Persia. To this plan his lordship acceded; and when I was leaving England, he gave me letters of recommendation to the Governor-general of India; desiring him, in the first instance, to recover for me the amount of my pension, which, through

the intrigues of my enemies at Lucknow, had been stopt for so many years; and then to send me to Cabul, with powers to remain (if agreeable to the Shah) as the East-India Company's representative at that Court.

The eighth Minister is the Lord High Chancellor: he is supreme over the Law Department, and possesses extensive powers.

These eight Ministers attend the King every day, and lay before him the state of affairs in their respective departments, and obtain his Majesty's signature to such papers as require it. They then deliberate, collectively, with the King, on any subject that is to be laid before Parliament; and having arranged the plan, give it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who carries it to the House of Commons, for their discussion.

The ninth Minister is the Archbishop of Canterbury. He is next in rank to the Princes: it is he who takes cognizance of every thing belonging to religion, and is the King's counsellor in all *spiritual affairs*. Immediately in subjection to the archbishop, are the bishops, or prelates of the Church, each of whom possesses ecclesiastical authority over a certain district, and superintends the conduct of the clergymen, or persons ordained for performing the public functions and ceremonies of their religion. It is requisite to explain to Mohammedans, that, in England, Law and Religion are distinct branches; and that the duty of a clergyman is limited to watching over the moral and spiritual conduct of his flock, to burying the dead, visiting the dying, uniting persons in marriage, and christening children; for, according to their tenets, children are born without any religion, and, until

they have been christened, are not admitted into the pale of the Church. In recompence for their trouble, the clergy are entitled to a tenth of the produce of the land, whether of the vegetable or animal kind. For this purpose, England is divided into an immense number of parishes, in each of which there is a church, built at the public expence; and to each of these churches are attached a priest and deputy, who, on every Sunday, and other holidays, read prayers, preach to their congregation, and perform the other ceremonies before mentioned. A certain number of these parishes constitute a diocese, to each of which one of the bishops is attached, who, in addition to the duties before stated, has the power of ordaining and dismissing clergymen. The bishops are addressed as Lords, and have seats in the House of Peers, but seldom interfere, unless spiritual affairs are

discussed. When a bishop dies, the King, by the advice of his Minister, selects one of the most worthy clergymen to supply his place.

I had the good fortune to be intimately acquainted with the Bishop of London: he was a sensible and philosophic man, and took much pleasure in disputing with me on points of religion. I one day had a controversy with him respecting our Prophet Mohammed, and insisted that his coming had been foretold by the holy Messiah, in the *original* New Testament. He positively denied the premises, but agreed to examine the book, and give me further information in a week. On the day appointed I waited on him, and he produced a very ancient Greek version of the Testament, in which he candidly acknowledged that he had discovered the verse

I alluded to, but said he supposed it might have been interpolated by some of the renegadoes of Constantinople, long after the preaching of Mohammed. I replied, that as copies of the New Testament were in the hands of every person at that time, it was impossible any interpolation could have taken place without having been noticed by some of the contemporary historians or writers. But, independently of that circumstance, it is a well-authenticated fact, that Mohammed himself had declared to the Christians, he was the Ahmed (*Paraclete*) promised by Jesus Christ, and quoted to them the passage in the Evangelists; that the Christians did not then object to the verse, but merely denied that he was the Comforter so promised, and that they should look for another. This was sufficient evidence to prove that the above passage was in the original, and not

an interpolation. The bishop laughed, and said he supposed I was come to England to convert the people to Mohammedanism, and to make them forsake the religion of their forefathers.

I also had the honour of being known to the Lord Bishop of Durham, who was a man of great liberality and extensive charity. He frequently invited me to his house; and marked his attention, by always asking some of the gentlemen who understood Persian to meet me. During the year of great scarcity in England, he daily fed a thousand poor people at his private expence. Hence may be formed some idea of the incomes and charity of English bishops.

In my account of the duties of his Majesty's Ministers, having mentioned *the*

Parliament, it becomes requisite to explain the meaning of the term. Parliament properly means an assemblage of the three estates; viz. the King, Lords, and Commons; but it is generally applied to the two latter. The Lords have a particular apartment, where they assemble, and deliberate on the business which has passed the House of Commons; and which, if they disapprove, becomes nugatory. It is in the House of Lords that the Parliament assembles on the first and last days of the session. On these occasions, the King goes to the house in great state, attended by all the public officers in their robes and insignia of office. I once had an opportunity of being present at this interesting scene. I was introduced into the house by my friend Mr. Debrett; but had it not been for the kind attention of the Duke of Gloucester, the King's brother, I should

have seen little of the ceremony. His Royal Highness observed me soon after I entered the house, and sent one of the attendants to procure me a seat near the throne. In this situation I not only saw the King enter and go out, but also heard distinctly every word that he addressed to the Bishops, the Lords, and the Commons. In the course of my life, I have never witnessed so grand or so impressive a scene. The King was seated upon a superb and elevated throne, over which was erected a stately canopy. On his Majesty's right hand sat the Heir Apparent, and on his left the other Princes according to seniority, upon chairs of yellow velvet embroidered with gold. Near to these were placed a number of forms, covered with broad-cloth, for the King's favourites or more distant relatives, and for the wives of the noblemen. On the right of the throne, but below the Heir Apparent, stood the

Foreign Princes and Ambassadors. The sword of state was borne by Lord Spenser, and *the cap of Liberty* by Lord Winchelsea: these two noblemen were close in front of his Majesty. Sir P. Burrell, now Lord Gwydir, presided, as Lord High Chamberlain, over all the ceremonies. The Lords were seated to the right and left, in a line with the Princes; and the Commons were arranged, in due order, opposite the throne. His Majesty's speech was listened to with the utmost silence and respect; immediately after which the King withdrew. As I was engaged to dine with a person of rank, I endeavoured to make my escape from the house as soon as possible, but in vain; for the crowd was so great, that the hour of dinner was past before I could get free; and I was obliged to make many apologies to my host for my seeming inattention.

Among the hereditary nobility of England, there are several degrees of rank, as Duke, Marquis, Earl, Baron, and Viscount; although, when assembled in the House of Lords, their prerogatives and duties appear exactly the same.

The title next in rank to Prince is Duke. Several of these Dukes are the King's sons; and his present Majesty has made it a rule not to raise any person but his own relations to that dignity. The families and titles of many of these Dukes, and of some of the Earls, are of very ancient date. They originally took their titles from their estates, or from towns dependent on them. Their possessions are very great; and several of them have incomes equal to the allowance of the King. Their property, contrary to the general custom of England, is not divided

among the children, but goes to the eldest son. By this means, the wealth and influence of the family remain stationary; and, as they are always generous and liberal to their tenants, they acquire such a host of dependants, that the government has had frequent occasions to be jealous or distrustful of them. Thus, some years ago, a brother of the Duke of ———— rebelled in Ireland against the King, and, having been joined by a great number of the Irish, very nearly effected a revolution in that kingdom. At length, however, by the great wisdom and military abilities of Lord Cornwallis, the rebels were vanquished, and Lord ———— was taken prisoner.

I had the honour of being acquainted with several of these Dukes. From the late Duke of Bedford I experienced much civility: he was an amiable man, and of a

most prepossessing appearance. He was succeeded by his brother, who, I understand, inherits many of his virtues. The Duke of Devonshire, who married a sister of Lord Spenser, invited me several times to his house; and his Duchess, who is one of the most delightful women in England, paid me the greatest attention. Their daughter, Lady Georgiana, surpasses in beauty and elegance the boasted nymphs of China or Tartary, and her voice thrills to the soul, like the elixir of life.

VERSE.

Since the Sphere commenced its revolutions, it has not beheld such a Star:

And since the Earth began to produce, it has not yielded so fair a Flower

As Georgiana, lovely daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

His Grace has for many years past been

in the habit of giving, annually, an entertainment to all his acquaintances, at Chiswick House. I had the honour of being present at one of these entertainments; when the Duchess, taking into consideration my forlorn situation, among such a crowd of great people, to most of whom I was a stranger, kindly appointed Lady Elizabeth Foster, one of her intimate friends, to be my *Mehmandar* during the day. Her ladyship, according to the English custom, immediately put her arm under mine, and led me, through bowers of roses and walks of jessamine, over all the gardens. She then conducted me to the concert and ball rooms. It so happened, that, as we were about to enter a door, we met the Prince of Wales. I immediately drew back, to make way for his Royal Highness, and consequently kept her ladyship back; but the Prince, with all that politeness which

distinguishes his character, retreated, and made a sign to me to advance. I was quite lost in amazement; but Lady Elizabeth laughed, and said, "His Royal Highness "would not for the world take precedence "of any lady: and as my arm was under "yours, he would by no means allow that "we should separate, to make way for "him." From this circumstance, some idea of the gallantry of the English towards ladies may be formed. When the company sat down to breakfast, I had the honour of being placed at the same table with the Prince.

Previous to breaking up, the Duchess presented me her ticket for the Opera of that evening. I at first declined accepting it, saying, it would be so late before I got home, that I should not have time to dress before the Opera commenced. The Duke

of Gloucester, brother of the King, who was at the same table, overheard me, and said my excuse was not a sufficient one; that he meant to be there, and hoped to have the pleasure of seeing me. Lady Elizabeth Foster, Lady Harvey, and Lady Georgiana, also said that they should be at the Opera at eight o'clock, and if I did not meet them, they would severely fine me. I therefore promised to attend; and, after having arrived at home, I quickly changed my dress, and proceeded to the Opera House. I found the Duke was there before me, and waiting impatiently for the ladies. He sat with me for an hour; and as they did not make their appearance, he was irritated, and went away, but desired me to scold them, should they arrive. When the Opera was nearly finished, the ladies came in. I taxed them, both on the Duke's and my own account; with their breach of

promise. They made me one of those trifling and improbable excuses, which so become the fascinating mouth of an English beauty: "That the crowd of coaches was "so great at the gates of Chiswick House, "they could not get away sooner." I recollected some verses of a Persian Ode, which I thought applicable to the case, and spoke them, as if extemporary. They insisted upon my giving them a translation, which I complied with; and the verses were handed about to all their acquaintances. They were nearly as follow.

EXTEMPORARY ODE.

Although no person ever experienced the truth of your promises,
Yet are we ever deceived by those eloquent and ruby lips.

Sin against me as much as you please: you need not ask forgiveness;

For I am your slave, and shall pay implicit obedience to your wishes.

Fear nót to enter the ranks at the day of judgment unveiled;
For, should some of your murdered lovers demand retribution,

The Angels, ordered to drive you from Paradise, captivated by your looks,
Will offer themselves, as an atonement for your errors.

That carriages round the gates of Chiswick House prevented your coming, is not probable;
Say rather, the crowd of those smitten by your charms detained you.

Such was my desire of your presence, that I noticed not the passing scene:
Now you are come, the sound of your voice banishes all my anxiety.

As long as Abu Taleb can behold your charming countenance,
He will not sigh for the bowers of the garden of Eden.

The Duke of Northumberland is said to possess the greatest riches, and most extensive property in the kingdom. At the request of my friend Miss Burrell, and by desire of the Duchess of Northumberland, who is a cousin of Miss Burrell's, I received an invitation to visit Sion House: but as his Grace did not condescend to pay me that attention I had received from other noblemen, I gratified my curiosity at the expence of my finer feelings.

The Dukes of Marlborough, Portland, Norfolk, Richmond, Gordon, &c. are all descended from ancient and noble families, who have long possessed this title; for since the commencement of the present reign, but one person, except the Royal Family, has been promoted to that dignity.

The King's sons, during their infancy,

are all called Princes; but, as they arrive at the age of manhood, are created Dukes. There are seven of them, all pleasing, unaffected men. They associate with the nobility, and do not assume any superiority in company, but enter, without fastidiousness, into all the amusements that are going forward. Thus, the Duke of Gloucester, who possessed a lively disposition and much ready wit, frequently jested the young ladies, in my presence, on their attachment to me, and their jealousy of each other on that account. This had always the effect of making the company laugh, and of exciting good humour.

The next persons in rank to the Lords are the Members of the House of Commons. Their number is above three hundred and fifty. Two of them are elected by the inhabitants of every town in the kingdom,

to be their agents or representatives in Parliament. They are, in general, men of very superior abilities and considerable property. For seven months in the year they remain in London, and attend five days in the week at the Parliament House. Some of their duties have been before described; but when their attention is not taken up with great political subjects, they employ themselves in considering the internal regulations, and plans for improving the state of the country, and in fact, take cognizance of every thing that is going forward. Even the laws respecting culprits are abrogated or altered by Parliament; for the Christians, contrary to the systems of the Jews and Mohammedans, do not acknowledge to have received any laws respecting *temporal* matters from Heaven, but take upon themselves to make such regulations as the exigencies of the times require.

CHAP. XVI.

Description of the East-India Company. Of the Board of Controul. Of the Lord Mayor of London—the nature and extent of his jurisdiction—Procession to Westminster and Guild-Hall. The Author is invited to the Lord Mayor's Feast—account thereof. Anecdote of Miss Combe.

In political importance, the East-India Company ranks next to the House of Commons. It is well understood, by every person possessing common information, that '*Company*' means an association of merchants, or other persons, who subscribe a certain sum of money, for the purpose of carrying on trade, or any other extensive concern, which exceeds the capital of an in-

dividual. Such was the origin of the East-India Company.

It is little more than a hundred years since the Company obtained their regular Charter, granting to them the entire monopoly of the trade with India and China. Their capital at that time was about three crores of rupees (£. 3,000,000), divided into shares of £. 1000 each, but has since been increased to double that amount; and, in consequence of their extensive conquests in India, the value of each share is now worth nearly twice the original subscription.

The Affairs of the Company are managed by twenty-four Directors; six of whom go out of office every year, in rotation, and six others are appointed in their room. They are elected by those proprietors who possess

a full share of £. 1000 stock. The Directors annually elect two of the most intelligent of their own body to be their President and Vice-President, who are called Chairman and Deputy Chairman; and these two gentlemen may be said to represent the Company; as, although they occasionally call on the other Directors to assist them with their advice, they have in general determined on the measure before they propose it to the court. It is evident, that to fill such a situation with propriety, requires a person of very superior understanding and well conversant in all kinds of business, and that therefore only a few of the Directors can aspire to this honour: some of them never attain to the dignity, and others are sometimes elected several years successively. The Directors most esteemed for their abilities, during my residence in England, and to whom the office of Chairman

had generally fallen, were, Mr. H. Inglis, D. Scott, S. Lushington, Mr. Devaynes, and C. Grant. I had the honour of being known to all these gentlemen; but had little acquaintance with any of the other Directors, except Sir T. Metcalfe, and Mr. Plowden, who has lately been elected.

The proprietors of East-India stock are of all ranks and professions; and some of them are such low people, that they do not presume to sit in the presence of their own *deputies*. They attend twice a year at the India House, to receive their dividends, or to give their votes, when called on, for the election of a new Director. They have nothing further to do with the business of the Company.

The India House is a very extensive and superb building, and contains an immense

number of apartments for all the public offices. It is situated in the city, and, including the warehouses, is not less than a mile in circumference. Here all the business of the Company is transacted. The Chairman and his Deputy attend every day in the week, except Sunday; and the other Directors assemble once, twice, or three times in the week, according to the quantity and nature of the business that is transacting.

In consequence of the supposed misconduct or neglect of the Company, or their Governors abroad, his Majesty's Ministers some years ago deemed it advisable to create a *Board of Controul*, to superintend and direct the affairs of the Company. This Board is invested with great powers, and frequently opposes the measures of the Directors: it examines all their accounts, and

controuls all their correspondence. The Company cannot now send out any order or letter to their Governors, unless sanctioned by this Board; and, as the President is always one of his Majesty's Ministers, no step of importance can be taken, or any new measure adopted, without being known to Government.

It nevertheless sometimes happens, that measures sanctioned both by the Court of Directors and the Board of Controul are brought under the cognizance of Parliament. Thus Lord Clive's depriving the heir of the Nabob of the Carnatic of his powers, and the assumption of part of the territory of Oude by Lord Wellesley, have been severely animadverted on, both in the House of Lords and of Commons; nor is it yet known how the business will be decided. Mr. Meheux, the Secretary to this Board,

was a sensible pleasant man, and frequently asked me to dine with him at his house in Sloane-street.

When I first arrived in England, several of the Directors imagined that I had been sent as an agent by some of the Princes of India, to complain against their servants. They were therefore, for some time, very distrustful, and reserved in their conduct; but after they were convinced of their error, they received me kindly, and paid me much attention.

I have before mentioned, that London is composed of three towns; viz. the City, Westminster, and the Borough. The former was, many years ago, a walled or fortified town; is the residence of the principal merchants in England; and is still governed by a particular jurisdiction of its own. The

ruler or governor of the city is called the Lord Mayor: he is endowed with great authority, and governs his own dominions as a sovereign. If I have been rightly informed, the constitution of the city is nearly as follows. Every person who has served his regular apprenticeship, or possesses certain property within the walls, is a freeman of the city. At stated periods, the housekeepers of each ward elect a number of persons to be the organ or channel of their opinions, who are called Common-councilmen: twenty-six of these are selected to be Aldermen, who hold their situation for life, and each of whom is magistrate of a particular ward or district of the city: he is answerable for its police, and has the power of calling any number of the Livery or freemen of his ward to his assistance, either to consult them, or to quell any disturbance. At his tribunal all the petty disputes of the district are adjusted. The

mode of electing the Lord Mayor is this: On a particular day in the year, all the Livery-men assemble in a large building, called the *Common Hall*, where, having canvassed the merits of all the Aldermen, they select the names of two, and send them up to the Court of Aldermen, which is then sitting, who are obliged to elect one of the persons named by the Livery, as the Lord Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Lord Mayor is the chief magistrate of the city, and presides daily in a court of justice. He has two assistants, called Sheriffs, and a great number of officers under him. He is allowed a superb palace to reside in, and has a number of horses, servants, &c. kept for him at the public expence. One of his prerogatives is, that no body of soldiers or armed men shall pass through the city without his permission:

and although his boundaries are divided from Westminster, or the *King's Town*, only by an old gateway, his Majesty never enters the city without giving information to the Lord Mayor, who, on all occasions of state or ceremony, meets the King at the gate, and makes an offer of the keys of the city: he then joins his Majesty's retinue, and accompanies him wherever he is going.

The annual election of the Lord Mayor is celebrated, by the inhabitants of the city, with as much pomp and rejoicing as is observed in Westminster on the anniversary of the King's birth-day. At noon, the Lord Mayor, dressed in his robes of state, and attended by all the city officers, embarks in a number of splendid boats prepared for the purpose, and proceeds up the river, to the great hall of justice at Westminster; where having taken the oaths of office, he returns

in the same state to the city; and after having landed, he enters his state coach, drawn by six horses, and is conveyed to Guildhall, where a dinner is prepared for four thousand of the most respectable inhabitants of London, of both sexes.

Some months after my arrival in England, Alderman Combe was elected Lord Mayor, and did me the honour of inviting me to his dinner. As soon as I alighted at the door, fifty of his lordship's attendants, with spears and maces in their hands, came to meet me, and a band of music at the same time commenced playing. I was then conducted, with great ceremony, to the room where his lordship was sitting with several of the King's Ministers and other noblemen.

On my entering the apartment, the Lord

Mayor took me by the hand, and, having inquired respecting my health, introduced me to the Lady Mayoress, who was dressed as fine as a *Queen*, and seated with great pomp on a superb sofa. Although it is not customary, on these occasions, for the Lady Mayoress to return the salutation of any person, yet, in compliment to me as a foreigner, her ladyship rose from her seat.

The dinner having been announced, the Lord Mayor again took my hand, and led me to a table which was raised a step or two above the others. He then placed me opposite himself, that he might have an opportunity of attending to me. His lordship sat on the right of the Lady Mayoress; and on his right hand were seated Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Spenser, Lord Nelson, and several other noblemen. On the left of her ladyship were placed the late Mayor

and his family. The remainder of the company at this table consisted of the Judges, Aldermen, &c.

The table was covered with a profusion of delicious viands, fruits, wines, &c. All the dishes and plates were of embossed silver; and the greater number of the goblets and cups, and the candlesticks, were of burnished gold. In the course of my life, I have never seen such a display of wealth and grandeur. The other tables also appeared to be plentifully and elegantly served; and, if I could judge from the apparent happiness of the people at them, they were equally pleased with their entertainment as myself.

After dinner, the health of the Lord and Lady Mayoress were drank, with great acclamations; then the health of the King,

and of the Queen; after which, "The pro-"sperity of Lord Nelson; and may the vic-"tory of the Nile be ever remembered!" was drank with loud applause.

When the whole of this company, consisting of several thousand persons, stood up, and, having filled their glasses, proclaimed the *toast* with loud huzzas, it immediately recalled to my mind the verse of our Poet Hafiz;

Come, fill the goblets with wine! and let us rend the vault of the Heavens with our shouts!

Let us overturn the present system of the Universe, and form a new Creation of our own!

As many of the persons who were seated at the lower end of the room could not see who were at the upper table, a short time previous to the ladies quitting the company,

a petition was sent to the Lord Mayor, to request they might be allowed to pass round the table, in small parties. His lordship, having asked my consent, directed that they might do so. In consequence of this permission, they divided themselves into small parties, and walked round the table. When they came opposite to Lord Nelson, or me, the men stooped their heads, and the women bent their knees, (such being the English manner of salutation). This mark of respect they thought due to Lord Nelson, for the victory of the Nile; and to me, for my *supposed high rank*. This ceremony took up nearly an hour; after which the Lord Mayor presented Lord Nelson, in the name of the city, with an elegant scimitar, the hilt of which was studded with diamonds, as a testimony of their gratitude for his distinguished services. His lordship, having buckled on the sword, stood up, and made a

speech to the Lord Mayor and to the company, assuring them that, with the weapon he had now been invested, and the protection of the Almighty, he would chastise and subdue all their enemies.

This interesting scene being finished, I thought it was time to retire, and went up to the Lord Mayor to take leave. His lordship, however, seized me by the hand, and led me up stairs to a superb apartment, where we found the Lady Mayoress, and nearly five hundred other ladies, richly dressed, some of whom were as beautiful as the Houries of Paradise, waiting our appearance, before they commenced dancing. As few rooms in the world would have held such an assemblage of people, if furnished in the usual manner, this apartment was fitted up with long ranges of seats rising above each other, (resembling the stone

steps of a large tank or reservoir in India,) which were continued all round the room, for the use of the spectators, leaving but a moderate space in the middle for the dancers.

When we had been seated a short time, twelve or fifteen of the principal young men present were permitted to enter the circle, and to choose their partners. After they had gone down the dance, they were relieved by an equal number of others; and in this manner the ball was kept up till daylight; and the sun had risen ere I reached home.

This was one of the most delightful nights I ever passed in my life; as, independent of every luxury my heart could wish, I had an opportunity of gazing all the time on the angelic charms of Miss Combe,

who sat in that assemblage of beauties like the bright moon surrounded with brilliant stars.

After what I have said, it may be unnecessary to repeat, that this young lady is one of the greatest beauties in London. One evening, I met her, by chance, at a masquerade, and, as the weather was warm, she wore only a short veil, which descended no lower than her upper lip. As our meeting was quite unexpected, she thought she could converse with me without being known: but, in answer to her *first* question, I replied, "There is but one woman in Lon-"don who possesses such teeth and lips; "therefore Miss Combe may save herself "the trouble of attempting to deceive her "admirers." This speech was overheard by some persons, and became the subject of conversation in the polite circles next day.

CHAP. XVII.

Description of the Courts of Law in London—of English Juries—of the Judges and Lawyers. The Author prosecuted by a tailor—his reflections and determination thereon—Censures the establishment of English Courts of Judicature in India—Anecdote of a witness—Ambiguity of the English Law—Remedy proposed by the Author.

In London, there are several public courts of justice, each of which has its particular department, and separate judges. The court in which criminals are tried is called the *Old Bailey*. As I had the happiness to be acquainted with several of the judges of this court, and was anxious to obtain some insight into English jurisprudence, I frequently attended their sittings.

The first circumstance that attracted my attention, and consequent applause of the English law, was the right which every British subject possesses, of being tried by a jury. These juries are composed of twelve respectable inhabitants of the city, who, being summoned to attend without having any previous information on the subject to be tried, or any opportunity of conversing with the parties, come into court perfectly disinterested and unbiassed: they then take an oath to act impartially, and to decide according to the evidence. It is the duty of the jury to attend scrupulously to the whole of the proceedings, and particularly to the examination of the witnesses both by the counsellors and the judge: they are then to determine, whether the person accused is guilty, or not, of the crime laid to his charge. If they are unanimous in their opinions, the affair is immediately

determined, and the judge pronounces the sentence of the law; but if they are of contrary opinions, they are locked up in an adjoining apartment until they come to a decision on the case. Notwithstanding this is the boasted palladium of English liberty, it does not appear to me free from imperfections. The judge, being a person of great consequence and superior abilities, often impresses the jury with such awe, that, if he is inclined to pass an unjust sentence, he can, in his interpretation of the law, and his address to them, dictate what they are to do. I have frequently seen the judge reprehend the jury for their decisions, and send them back, once or twice, to reconsider their verdict. If, by the above means, the judge can bring a few of the jury over to his opinion, he can frighten the rest, by threatening to lock them up without food; while he and the

lawyers retire from the court, and refresh themselves, for three or four hours. From the above circumstance, it appears to me that the decision in all cases depends more on the judge than on the jury.

The English judges are doubtless then of the strictest honour and probity, and, being independent both in their fortunes and situation, are above all temptation to act unjustly; but the laws being excessively voluminous, and in many instances either contradictory or obscure, the lawyers, whose only income arises from their practice (that is, the fees they receive from the plaintiff and defendant), endeavour to delay the decision of the business as much as possible, and frequently prevail on the judge to postpone the trial to another year: in this manner, civil causes are often carried on for twenty years, to the ruin of both parties.

In other instances, the judges allow the lawyers to puzzle and intimidate the witnesses, in such a manner, that it is impossible for a person unaccustomed to their proceedings to give his evidence correctly; and it sometimes happens, that the judge yields his own better judgment to the interested arguments of a bribed counsellor, who, to serve his client, will undertake to prove that black is white.

I was disgusted to observe, that, in these courts, law very often overruled equity, and that a well-meaning honest man was frequently made the dupe of an artful knave; nor could the most righteous judge alter the decision, without transgressing the law.

I myself had the misfortune to acquire a little experience in this way. Having purchased some cloth, I agreed with a tailor

to make me a coat for ten shillings. Although there were two witnesses present, and I even had the agreement in his own hand-writing, he denied it, and sent me a bill for twenty shillings. I gave him the ten, but refused to pay him any more: he said it was well, he should complain to the court of justice, and make me pay the remainder. He went immediately, and procured a summons for me to appear, but this he never delivered; and, after a certain time, produced a decree from one of the courts, ordering me immediately to pay the ten shillings, and a further fine of six shillings, for not having obeyed the summons. This I thought extreme injustice, and consulted one of my friends, who was an attorney, what I should do. He replied, "Although the case is very hard, you must "*immediately* pay the money: you may "then sue him for having withheld the

" summons, and for having, by that means, " obtained an unjust decision against you." I was however perfectly satisfied with the experience I had already gained, and quietly paid the money. After that transaction, whenever any *unjust claim* was made on me, I endeavoured to compromise the matter, by offering to pay a third, or a half of the amount; and, as my adversaries found it troublesome to go backward and forward in attendance on the court, they were, in general, reasonable enough to comply with my wishes. This is the plan adopted by many sensible Englishmen, who find it easier to settle with their opponents in this manner, than to contest the point in a court of law.

I cannot pass over this opportunity of freely expressing my sentiments with respect to the establishment of British courts of law

in India; which, I contend, are converted to the very worst of purposes, and, unless an alteration take place in the system, will some time or other produce the most sinister consequences.

In Calcutta, few months elapse that some respectable and wealthy man is not attacked by the harpies who swarm round the courts of judicature. Various are their modes of extorting money; and many of them have acquired such fortunes by these nefarious means, as to live in great splendour, and quite eclipse the ancient families.

Their general mode of proceeding is this: having by some means connected themselves with one of the attorneys of the court, they then, under a fictitious name, purchase a large quantity of goods on credit from some country trader; and when the

time of payment arrives, they bring forward false witnesses, to prove that the merchandise was bought for half the price actually agreed on.

Another mode of acquiring money, is by frightening people with the terrors of the English law. They first make a demand on a person for a large sum of money, which they say is owing to them, either by himself or his father; to prove which they frequently forge bonds. If he is alarmed, and compromises the matter with them, it is well; but if he disputes their claim, they proceed to the court, and in the most hardened and villainous manner, make oath, or twenty oaths if requisite, that such a person owes them 50,000 rupees (£.6250), and is about to abscond to one of the foreign settlements within twenty miles of Calcutta. A summons is *instantly* issued: and the

person accused, being seized and brought to the court, is told he must either give immediate security for a lac of rupees (£.12,500), or go to jail: if he is fortunate enough to have opulent friends, who will immediately come to his assistance and give their security, he may escape the disgrace of being carried to prison, on condition of agreeing to attend on the day of trial: if, on that day, he should arrive in the court an hour too late, he is fined perhaps a hundred or two hundred pounds: but if he should, by any accident, neglect to attend, his securities are obliged to pay the whole of the lac of rupees. These circumstances are all very distressing to a native of India, unacquainted with the English laws and customs; and many of them, rather than have the trouble and run the risk, willingly pay a sum of money: but if the person accused is a resolute man, who

determines to go through the whole process, he is obliged to employ an attorney, who understands not a word of his language, and to intrust an important concern in the hands of a counsellor, whom he cannot understand but through the medium of an interpreter; and the attorney, not being paid by the year, month, or day, as is the custom of India, makes what charges he pleases, and postpones the trial till it suits his convenience. After a lapse of many months, or perhaps years, the cause comes on, and if the defendant is fortunate enough to prove that the plaintiff and his witnesses have perjured themselves, he obtains a verdict in his favour, and the plaintiff is ordered to pay the *costs of suit*. It frequently happens, that the plaintiff, aware of the event, absconds on the day of trial: if he does not, he may be arrested for the amount of the costs, and carried to jail: he there

pleads poverty, and the defendant, after such injuries, is obliged to pay him a weekly allowance; in failure of which the scoundrel is liberated, and again let loose on the world, to recommence his villanies.

Hitherto we have taken the favourable side of the question. But suppose the defendant unable to give security for so large a sum of money: He is detained, the first day, in the court-house, under charge of the constables; where, if he is a Hindoo, he cannot eat; and if a Mohammedan, he is precluded from performing the duties of his religion. The following day he is carried to the same prison in which the felons are confined, to the great disgrace of himself and family: there he is every night shut up in a dark and hot cell, where he lingers for months. Many are the respectable persons who die under such

misfortunes, before the trial comes on. If the supposed debtor survive till the day of trial arrives, he is then conveyed, under a guard, to the court, where, probably, the plaintiff plays the same tricks as before described; and the only consolation the poor man receives, is, that the court are very sorry he should have suffered so much trouble.

The hardships and inconvenience which witnesses also suffer, when summoned to Calcutta, are so great, that no man in India will now give voluntary evidence in any cause. The witnesses are sometimes brought down the country a month's journey; they are then detained five or six months in Calcutta: when brought into court, they are kept standing for two or three hours; and if puzzled by the various questions and cross-questioning of the lawyers and judges,

they are then accused of being liars; and obliged to return home, at their own expence, without any remuneration for their loss of time and trouble.

An anecdote is related of a clever woman, who, having been summoned to give evidence before the court of judicature in Calcutta, deposed that such a circumstance occurred in her presence. The judge asked where it happened: she replied, In the verandah of such a house. "Pray my "good woman," said the judge, "how many "pillars are there in that verandah?" The woman, not perceiving the trap that was laid for her, said, without much consideration, that the verandah was supported by four pillars. The counsel for the opposite party immediately offered to prove that the verandah contained five pillars, and that, consequently, no credit could be given to

her evidence. The woman perceiving her error, addressed the judge, and said, " My " lord, your lordship has for many years " presided in this court, and every day that " you come here ascend a flight of stairs: " may I beg to know how many steps these " stairs consist of?" The judge confessed he did not know: " Then," replied she, " if your lordship cannot tell the number " of steps you ascend daily to the *seat of* " *Justice*, it cannot be astonishing that I " should forget the number of pillars in a " balcony which I never entered above " once or twice in my life." The judge was much pleased with the woman's wit, and decided in favour of her party.

In short, the ambiguity of the English law is such, and the stratagems of the lawyers so numerous, as to prove a source of misery to those who are unfortunate

enough to have any concern with it or them.

As it may not appear fair or candid to censure any system so freely without an endeavour to point out some remedy to correct its defects, I shall here take the liberty of suggesting a few hints, which, I think, might be usefully applied.

For many years after the establishment of the Mohammedan religion, every person pleaded his own cause; and the cazies, being then men of great learning and sanctity, gave their decisions gratuitously.

As the English judges are at present paid from the public funds, and therefore cannot benefit themselves by prolonging suits, I recommend, that the counsellors, attornies, &c. shall be placed on a similar

footing, and that they shall not receive any fee or bribe from the litigating parties under a severe penalty. In order to defray the expence of this establishment, either let a small additional tax be laid on the nation at large, or a duty of so much per cent. be levied on all litigated property. By this plan, I am convinced that the number and length of suits would be much curtailed, the time of the witnesses would be saved, the law would be purified from those imperfections which are now a reproach to it, and the courts purged of those pettifogging lawyers, who are a disgrace to their profession.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of the Finances of England. Mode of assessing the Taxes. Government Loans. National Debt. Effects of the Heavy Taxes, on the Poor, the Rich, and the Middling Classes of the People. Plan proposed by the Author for the liquidation of the National Debt.

In a work of this kind, it may be expected I should say something of the Finances of England; but, as the system is tedious and complex, I shall confine myself to the principal points of it only.

The public revenue of England is not, as in India, merely raised from the land, or by duties levied on a few kinds of merchandise, but almost every article of con-

sumption pays its portion. The taxes are levied by the authority and decrees of Parliament. They are, in general, so framed, as to bear lightly on the poor, and that every person should pay in proportion to his income. For this reason, bread, meat, and coals, being articles of indispensable use, are exempt from duties; but spirits, wines, &c. are taxed very high. The proprietors of land pay one fifth of their rents, besides the tenth of its produce to the clergy. The rich are taxed for every dog, horse, and man-servant, they keep: they are also obliged to pay for the liberty of throwing *flour* on their heads, and for having their *arms* (insignia of the antiquity and rank of their family) painted on their carriages, &c. Since the commencement of the present war, a new law has been framed, compelling every person to pay, annually, a *tenth* of his whole income.

Most of these taxes are permanent, but some of them are changed at the pleasure of Parliament.

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer discovers that the revenue is not equal to the estimate of the expences for the following year, he does not increase the taxes to supply the deficiency, but, by a refinement in finance, he borrows the amount, on Government security, and increases the duty upon some particular article of consumption, an eighth, or a tenth part, which suffices to pay the *interest* of the sum so borrowed. At first sight, it appears, that an additional duty, levied upon any particuular article, would be an injury to the vender of it: the fact is, however, quite the contrary; for the vender, under pretence of realizing the duty, enhances the price of the commodity in a greater proportion than

is requisite, and thus becomes a gainer by the circumstance, while the whole burthen of the tax falls upon the consumers.

This system of Government loans commenced about a hundred years ago: and as the surplus revenue, during peace, has never been equal to the discharge of the debt contracted during a war, the national debt has been gradually increasing, and now amounts to the enormous sum of some hundreds of millions. As it seldom happens that any part of this debt is paid off, it appears extraordinary that people are willing to lend their money on such terms, particularly when the annual interest is not more than five or six per cent. But the state of the case, I conceive, is this. The moneyed capital in England far exceeds the amount required for carrying on the commerce of the nation: and as the legal

interest of money is limited to five per cent by law, the bankers prefer lending it to Government on these terms, rather than to individuals upon indifferent security: and although they have no hopes of ever being repaid by the borrowers, yet has this ideal property received such sanction by time, and the regular payment of the interest every six months, that a number of persons are always ready to purchase the Government bonds from them, even at an advanced price. The amount of the debt is however become so enormous, that the payment of the interest, in addition to the current expences of the empire, is severely felt by every person in the nation. It is therefore impossible that this system can continue much longer. The poor, being exempt from most of the taxes, do not feel the severity of them, except in the price of provisions and clothes; and the rich have

it in their power to avoid many of the taxes, by dispensing with the use of some of the articles of luxury: but the middling classes of people, who have been accustomed to live in a certain degree of comfort and respectability, feel more severely than others the pressure of the times. They have already greatly curtailed their expences; and they cannot further reduce their establishments, without descending into a lower rank of life than they and their ancestors have been accustomed to move in.

This subject is well understood by some of their most intelligent politicians, who have calculated, that if the whole surface of both islands was covered with gold, it would not suffice to pay off the national debt. But as these gentlemen have not yet pointed out any remedy for this evil, I shall take the liberty of giving a few hints

on the subject, the adoption of which may perhaps avert a calamity, that, I foresee, will one day overwhelm Great Britain, and lay her glories in oblivion.

Let the creditors of Government be assembled, in the presence of the Parliament; and let the Minister, clearly and dispassionately, explain to them, that the state of affairs is arrived at such a crisis, that is impossible the nation can continue longer to pay the amount of the enormous taxes which oppress them; that a revolution is to be apprehended; that the first act of the leaders of the revolution certainly will be *to cancel the national debt*, and that the rich may consider themselves fortunate if left in possession of their real wealth; that the national debt, being thus cancelled, they, the creditors, will lose *the whole* of their property invested in the

funds; that therefore it will be much wiser to enter into an immediate compromise, and relinquish a part. For instance; those who have been receiving *interest* from the nation for a great number of years, shall give up half their claim; those who have received interest for a moderate number of years, shall yield a third of their demand; and those whose bonds are of a late date, shall relinquish a quarter of the amount. Now, as the creditors of Government are all rich persons, and, besides their property in the funds, possess great wealth, in gold, silver, merchandise, houses, and lands, there can be no doubt, if they were convinced of the danger of a revolution, by which they would risk much more fatal consequences, they would immediately comply with this requisition. By this plan the national debt would, in one day, be decreased at least one half. The Parliament should then curtail

every unnecessary expence, and apply, each year, the surplus revenue to the payment of the remainder of the debt. By such means, in twenty or thirty years, the whole of the debt would be liquidated; some of the most oppressive taxes might be immediately abolished, and others gradually relinquished; provisions would, in consequence, become cheaper; and the people be rendered happy, and grateful to their Government.

CHAP. XIX.

The Author apologizes for the censure he is obliged to pass on the English character. He accuses the Common People of want of religion and honesty, and the Nation at large of a blind confidence in their good fortune, also of cupidity. A desire of ease, one of their prevailing defects. Picture of a London Gentleman. The English irritable, bad economists of their time, and luxurious. The advantages of simplicity, exemplified in the histories of the Arabs and Tartars. The English vain of their acquirements in learned or foreign languages — Governed by self-interest, licentious, extravagant. An instance of meanness and extravagance united—Bad consequences of these vices. The English too strongly prejudiced in favour of their own customs. The Author's mode of defending the Mohammedan

customs. The English blind to their own imperfections.

It now becomes an unpleasant, and perhaps ungrateful, part of my duty, by complying with the positive desire of Lady Spenser and several other of my friends, to mention those defects and vices which appeared to me to pervade the English character, but which, perhaps, only existed in my own imagination. If the hints I shall give are not applicable, I hope they will be attributed to want of judgment, rather than to malice or ingratitude: but if my suggestions are acknowledged to be correct, I trust they (the English) will thank me for my candour, and endeavour to amend their errors.

VERSE.

He is your friend, who, like a mirror, exhibits all your defects:

Not he, who, like a comb, covers them over with the hairs of flattery.

As my experience and knowledge of the common people were chiefly acquired in London, it may, and with great probability, be objected, that there are more vicious people to be found in the capital than in all the rest of the empire.

The first and greatest defect I observed in the English, is their want of faith in religion, and their great inclination to philosophy (atheism). The effects of these principles, or rather want of principle, is very conspicuous in the lower orders of people, who are totally devoid of honesty. They are, indeed, cautious how they transgress against the laws, from fear of punishment; but whenever an opportunity offers of purloining any thing without the risk of detection, they never pass it by. They are also ever on the watch to appropriate to themselves the property of the rich, who, on this

account, are obliged constantly to keep their doors shut, and never to permit an unknown person to enter them. At present, owing to the vigilance of the magistrates, the severity of the laws, and the honour of the superior classes of people, no very bad consequences are to be apprehended; but if ever such nefarious practices should become prevalent, and should creep in among the higher classes, inevitable ruin must ensue.

The second defect, most conspicuous in the English character, is pride, or insolence. Puffed up with their power and good fortune for the last fifty years, they are not apprehensive of adversity, and take no pains to avert it. Thus, when the people of London, some time ago, assembled in mobs on account of the great increase of taxes and high price of provisions, and were nearly in a state of insurrection,—although the magi-

strates, by their vigilance in watching them, and by causing parties of soldiers to patrole the streets day and night, to disperse all persons whom they saw assembling together, succeeded in quieting the disturbance,—yet no pains were afterwards taken to eradicate the evil. Some of the men in power said, it had been merely a plan of the artificers to obtain higher wages (an attempt frequently made by the English tradesmen); others were of opinion that no remedy could be applied; therefore no further notice was taken of the affair. All this, I say, betrays a blind confidence, which, instead of meeting the danger, and endeavouring to prevent it, waits till the misfortune arrives, and then attempts to remedy it. Such was the case with the late King of France, who took no step to oppose the Revolution, till it was too late. This self-confidence is to be found, more or less, in every English-

man: it however differs much from the pride of the Indians and Persians.

Their third defect is a passion for acquiring money, and their attachment to worldly affairs. Although these bad qualities are not so reprehensible in them as in countries more subject to the vicissitudes of fortune, (because, in England, property is so well protected by the laws, that every person reaps the fruits of his industry, and, in his old age, enjoys the earnings or economy of his youth,) yet sordid and illiberal habits are generally found to accompany avarice and parsimony, and, consequently, render the possessor of them contemptible: on the contrary, generosity, if it does not launch into prodigality, but is guided by the hand of prudence, will render a man respected and esteemed.

The fourth of their frailties is a desire of ease, and a dislike to exertion: this, however, prevails only in a moderate degree, and bears no proportion to the apathy and indolence of the smokers of opium of Hindoostan and Constantinople; it only prevents them from perfecting themselves in science, and exerting themselves in the service of their friends, upon what they *choose* to call trivial occasions. I must, however, remark, that friendship is much oftener cemented by acts of courtesy and good-nature, than by conferring permanent obligations; the opportunities of doing which can seldom occur, whereas the former happen daily. In London, I had sometimes occasion to trouble my friends to interpret for me, in the adjustment of my accounts with my landlord and others; but, in every instance, I found that, rather than be at the trouble of stopping for five minutes longer, and

saying a few words in my defence, they would yield to an unjust demand, and offer to pay the items I objected to at their own expence: at the same time, an aversion to the employment of interpreter or mediator was so conspicuous in their countenance, that, latterly, I desisted from troubling them. In this respect I found the French much more courteous; for if, in Paris, the master of an hotel attempted to impose on me, the gentlemen present always interfered, and compelled him to do me justice.

Upon a cursory observation of the conduct of gentlemen in London, you would suppose they had a vast deal of business to attend to; whereas nine out of ten, of those I was acquainted with at the west end of the town, had scarcely any thing to do. An hour or two immediately after breakfast may be allotted to business, but the rest of

the day is devoted to visiting and pleasure. If a person calls on any of these gentlemen, it is more than probable he is told by the servant, his master is *not at home*; but this is merely an idle excuse, to avoid the visits of people, whose business they are either ignorant of, or do not wish to be troubled with. If the suppliant calls in the morning, and is by chance admitted to the master of the house, before he can tell half his story, he is informed, that it is now the hour of business, and a particular engagement in the city requires the gentleman's immediate attendance. If he calls later in the day, the gentleman is just going out to pay a visit of consequence, and therefore cannot be detained: but if the petitioner, unabashed by such checks, continues to relate his narrative, he is set down as a brute, and never again permitted to enter the doors. In this instance, I again say that the French

are greatly superior to the English; they are always courteous, and never betray those symptoms of impatience so conspicuous and reprehensible in the English character.

Their fifth defect is nearly allied to the former, and is termed irritability of temper. This passion often leads them to quarrel with their friends and acquaintances, without any substantial cause. Of the bad effects of this quality, strangers seldom have much reason to complain; but as society can only be supported by mutual forbearance, and sometimes shutting our eyes on the frailties or ignorance of our friends, it often causes animosities and disunion between the nearest relatives, and hurries the possessor into dilemmas whence he frequently finds it difficult to extricate himself.

The sixth defect of the English is their

throwing away their time, in sleeping, eating, and dressing; for, besides the necessary ablutions, they every morning shave, and dress their hair; then, to accommodate themselves to the fashion, they put on twenty-five different articles of dress: all this, except shaving, is repeated before dinner, and the whole of these clothes are again to be taken off at night: so that not less than two complete hours can be allowed on this account. One hour is expended at breakfast; three hours at dinner; and the three following hours are devoted to tea, and the company of the ladies. Nine hours are given up to sleep: so that there remain just six hours, out of the twenty-four, for visiting and business. If they are reproached with this waste of time, they reply, "How is it to be avoided?" I answer them thus: "Curtail the number of your "garments; render your dress simple;

"wear your beards; and give up less "of your time to eating, drinking, and "sleeping."

Their seventh defect is a luxurious manner of living, by which their wants are increased a hundred-fold. Observe their kitchens, filled with various utensils; their rooms, fitted up with costly furniture; their side-boards, covered with plate; their tables, loaded with expensive glass and china; their cellars, stocked with wines from every quarter of the world; their parks, abounding in game of various sorts; and their ponds, stored with fish. All these expences are incurred to pamper their appetites, which, from long indulgence, have gained such absolute sway over them, that a diminution of these luxuries would be considered, by many, as a serious misfortune. How unintelligible to them is the verse of one of their own Poets:

" Man wants but little here below,
" Nor wants that little long."

It is certain, that luxurious living generates many disorders, and is productive of various other bad consequences.

If the persons above alluded to will take the trouble of reading the history of the Arabians and Tartars, they will discover that both these nations acquired their extensive conquests, not by their numbers, nor by the superiority of their arms, which were merely bows and arrows, and swords: no, it was from the paucity of their wants: they were always prepared for action, and could subsist on the coarsest food. Their chiefs were content with the fare of their soldiers; and their personal expences were a mere trifle. Thus, when they took possession of an enemy's country, they ever found the current revenue of it more than requisite for their

simple but effective form of government; and, instead of raising the taxes on their new subjects, they frequently alleviated one half their burthen. The approach of their armies, therefore, instead of being dreaded, was wished for by the neighbouring people, and every facility given to their conquests. To this alone must be ascribed the rapidity with which they overran great part of the globe, in so short a period.

An anecdote is related of the Commander of the Faithful, Aly, (on whom be the grace of God!) which will corroborate what I have stated. The son-in-law of the Prophet, previous to setting out on an expedition, ordered a quantity of barley-bread to be baked at once, sufficient to last him for twenty days. This he carried on his own camel, and every day ate one of the cakes, moistened with water, which was his

only food. His friends remonstrated with him on his abstemiousness, and requested he would order some other victuals to be dressed. He replied: "My time is fully "taken up with two things: first, my duty "towards God; and, secondly, my care of "the army. I have therefore no time to "throw away on the indulgence of ap-"petite."

The following anecdote of the Emperor Timour (Tamerlane) will also, I hope, be considered as applicable to the subject under discussion. When that great conqueror was returning to Samarcand after the conquest of Persia, he left a considerable army, under the command of some of his most experienced generals, in Azerbijan; but, previous to quitting that province, he summoned the generals to his presence, and, having given them much good advice re-

specting their conduct, and the government and security of the territories entrusted to their charge, concluded thus: "By the "blessing of God, and the prowess of our "victorious arms, all our enemies have been "extirpated from this part of the world, "save Sultan Ahmed Jellair, and Kara "Yusuf the Turkoman, both of whom have "taken refuge in the territories of the Ot- "tomans of Constantinople. The former "of these is a king, and the son of a king; "but as he has been bred up in Persian "luxury, and habituated to ease and com- "fort, I have no apprehensions of him. "But beware of Kara Yusuf; he is an ex- "perienced soldier, hardened in adversity, "accustomed to privations, and capable of "undergoing toil and labour: let all your "views be directed towards him." The penetration of the Emperor, and the justness of his remarks, were, in the sequel, fully

proved; for, shortly after his death, both these princes invaded the province of Azerbijan. Sultan Ahmed was quickly defeated, and put to death; but Kara Yusuf, supported by the qualities ascribed to him by the Emperor, took advantage of the want of energy and the tyranny of the Tartars, and not only recovered his own province, but expelled them from great part of Persia.

The eighth defect of the English is vanity, and arrogance, respecting their acquirements in science, and a knowledge of foreign languages; for, as soon as one of them acquires the smallest insight into the principles of any science, or the rudiments of any foreign language, he immediately sits down and composes a work on the subject, and, by means of the Press, circulates books which have no more intrinsic worth than the toys bestowed on children, which serve

to amuse the ignorant, but are of no use to the learned. This is not merely my own opinion, but was confirmed to me both by Greeks and Frenchmen, whose languages are cultivated in England with more ardour than any others. Such, however, is the infatuation of the English, that they give the author implicit credit for his profound knowledge, and purchase his books. Even those who are judges of the subject do not discountenance this measure, but contend, that a little knowledge is better than entire ignorance, and that perfection can only be acquired by degrees. This axiom I deny; for the portion of science and truth contained in many of their books is so small, that much time is thrown away in reading them: besides, erroneous opinions and bad habits are often contracted by the perusal of such works, which are more difficult to eradicate, than it is to implant correct ideas in a mind totally uncultivated.

Far be it from me to depreciate the transcendant abilities and angelic character of Sir William Jones; but his Persian Grammar, having been written when he was a young man, and previous to his having acquired any experience in Hindoostan, is, in many places, very defective; and it is much to be regretted that his public avocations, and other studies, did not permit him to revise it, after he had been some years in India. Whenever I was applied to by any person for instruction in the Persian language, who had previously studied this grammar, I found it much more difficult to correct the bad pronunciation he had acquired, and the errors he had adopted, than it was to instruct a person who had never before seen the Persian alphabet. Such books are now so numerous in London, that, in a short time, it will be difficult to discriminate or separate them from works of real value.

A ninth failing prevalent among the English is selfishness. They frequently endeavour to benefit themselves, without attending to the injury it may do to others: and when they seek their own advantage, they are more humble and submissive than appears to me proper; for after they have obtained their object, they are either ashamed of their former conduct, or dislike the continuance of it so much, that they frequently break off the connection. Others, restrained by a sense of propriety, still keep up the intercourse, and endeavour to make the person they have injured, or whom they have deceived by promises, forget the circumstance, by their flattering and courteous behaviour. I had few opportunities of experiencing this myself in England; but the conduct in India of Colonel Hannay, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Blane, gave me convincing proofs of it; for, when-

ever they had any point to carry, they would accept of no excuse from me; and having, by persuasion and promises, prevailed upon me to undertake their business, as soon as they had obtained their wishes they forgot their promises, and abandoned me to the malice of my enemies. It might have been unnecessary to quote these instances; for this defect in the character of the English is so evident, that no doubts remain on the subject.

It is well known, that when Lord Hobart was Governor of Madras he wanted to interfere in the internal management of the revenues of the Carnatic, and for this purpose solicited the sanction of his superior, Sir J. Shore. In this, however, he was disappointed, for the Governor-general would not acquiesce in the measure; saying, "Although it might be politic, it would

" be unjust, and an infraction of the treaty " between the Nabob and the East-India " Company." To this observation his lordship replied; that, " If ever, in any former " instance, the English had manifested this " spirit of forbearance in aggrandizing them- " selves, he should not have proposed the " measure to his Excellency; but as it was " evident to all the world that the contrary " system had ever been pursued, he thought, " to let the present opportunity pass by " would be little less than an act of folly."

The tenth vice of this nation is want of chastity; for under this head I not only include the reprehensible conduct of young women running away with their lovers, and others cohabiting with a man before marriage, but the great degree of licentiousness practised by numbers of both sexes in London; evinced by the multiplicity of public-

houses and bagnios in every part of the town. I was credibly informed, that in the single parish of Mary-la-bonne, which is only a sixth part of London, there reside sixty thousand courtezans; besides which, there is scarcely a street in the metropolis where they are not to be found. The conduct of these women is rendered still more blameable, by their hiring lodgings in or frequenting streets which from their names ought only to be the abode of virtue and religion; for instance, 'Paradise Street,' 'Modest Court,' 'St. James's Street,' 'St. Martin's Lane,' and 'St. Paul's Churchyard.' The first of these is to be the residence of the righteous; the second implies virtue; and the others are named after the holy Apostles of the Blessed Messiah. Then there is 'Queen Anne Street,' and 'Charlotte Street;' the one named after the greatest, the other after the best, of Queens.

I however think, that persons who let the lodgings are much more reprehensible than the unfortunate women themselves.

The eleventh vice of the English is extravagance, that is, living beyond their incomes by incurring useless expences, and keeping up unnecessary establishments. Some of these I have before alluded to, under the head of luxuries; but to those are now to be added the establishments of carriages, horses, and servants, two sets of which are frequently kept, one for the husband, the other for his wife. Much money is also lavished in London, on balls, masquerades, routs, &c. Sometimes the sum of £.1000 is thus expended in one night's entertainment. I have known gentlemen in the receipt of six or seven thousand pounds a year, who were so straitened by such inconsiderate expences, that if asked

by a friend for the loan of *ten* pounds, could not comply with this trifling request. This spirit of extravagance appears daily to increase; and being imitated by merchants and tradesmen, must have the worst of consequences: for if these people find the profits of their trade not sufficient to support their expences, they will attempt to supply the deficiency by dishonest means, and at length take to highway robbery. It also encourages dissipation and profligacy in the lower classes, which tend to the subversion of all order and good government.

During one of my excursions from London in a stage coach, I experienced the greatest extravagance and meanness, united in an Englishman, I had ever before seen. He was a genteel looking man, and, soon after we entered the coach, commenced a conversation with me. He asked a num-

ber of questions respecting India, particularly about the price of provisions, and was astonished at the cheapness of different articles; but, after a short pause, he said, "Probably the low price of provisions is "owing to the scarcity of money, and the "limited incomes of the inhabitants of that "country?" I replied, he was much mistaken, that no country abounded more with wealth than Hindoostan, and that it was proverbial for making the fortunes of all adventurers. When we sat down to dinner, he called for the most expensive wines, and asked me to drink with him. As I had no inclination to do so, and was averse to the expence, I declined; but when the bill was brought in, he took it, and divided the amount equally to every person at table. I was surprized at his insolence; but as none of the other passengers chose to dispute the demand, although they all looked at him

with astonishment, I was ashamed to appear more parsimonious than others, and for two days paid eight shillings for my dinner each day, being twice the amount usual for the passengers in a stage coach.

Should this spirit of extravagance ever pervade the Ministerial department, they will either commit frauds on the public treasury, or be open to bribery and corruption; than which nothing sooner brings a State to ruin.

It is said, that previous to the late revolution, the French Government expended immense sums on public buildings, gardens, illuminations, &c. and were parsimonious in the expences of the navy and army; that the nobles lived in a superb style, whilst the lower classes were reduced to the most abject poverty; that the patience of the latter having been exhausted, they readily

joined the leaders of faction, and drove their inconsiderate and domineering masters from among them.

If the English will take the trouble of reading ancient history, they will find that luxury and prodigality have caused the ruin of more Governments than was ever effected by an invading enemy: they generate envy, discord, and animosity, and render the people either effeminate, or desirous of a change. To these vices may be ascribed the subversion of the Roman empire in Europe, and the annihilation of the Moghul government in India.

Their twelfth defect is a contempt for the customs of other nations, and the preference they give to their own; although theirs, in fact, may be much inferior. I had a striking instance of this prejudice in the

conduct of my fellow-passengers on board ship. Some of these, who were otherwise respectable characters, ridiculed the idea of my wearing trowsers, and a night-dress, when I went to bed; and contended, that they slept much more at their ease by going to bed nearly naked. I replied, that I slept very comfortably; that mine was certainly the most decent mode; and that, in the event of any sudden accident happening, I could run on deck instantly, and, if requisite, jump into the boat in a minute; whilst they must either lose some time in dressing, or come out of their cabins in a very immodest manner. In answer to this, they said, such sudden accidents seldom occurred, but that if it did happen, they would not hesitate to come on deck in their shirts only. This I give merely as a specimen of their obstinacy, and prejudice in favour of their own customs.

In London, I was frequently attacked on the apparent unreasonableness and childishness of some of the Mohammedan customs; but as, from my knowledge of the English character, I was convinced it would be folly to argue the point philosophically with them, I contented myself with parrying the subject. Thus, when they attempted to turn into ridicule the ceremonies used by the pilgrims on their arrival at Mecca, I asked them, why they supposed the ceremony of baptism, by a clergyman, requisite for the salvation of a child, who could not possibly be sensible what he was about? When they reproached us for eating with our hands; I replied, "There is "by this mode no danger of cutting your- "self or your neighbours; and it is an old "and a true proverb, 'The nearer the bone, "the sweeter the meat:' but, exclusive of "these advantages, a man's own hands are

" surely cleaner than the *feet of a baker's* " *boy*; for it is well known, that half the " bread in London is kneaded by the feet." By this mode of argument, I completely silenced all my adversaries, and frequently turned the laugh against them, when they expected to have refuted me and made me appear ridiculous.

Many of these vices, or defects, are not natural to the English; but have been ingrafted on them by prosperity and luxury; the bad consequences of which have not yet appeared; and, for two reasons, may not be conspicuous for some time. The first of these is the strength of constitution both of individuals and of the Government: for if a person of a strong constitution swallow a dose of poison, its deleterious effects are sometimes carried off by the power of the nerves; but if a weak person should take

it, he would certainly fall a victim. The second reason is, that their neighbours are not exempt from these vices; nay, possess them in a greater proportion. Our poet Sady has said,

"To the inhabitants of Paradise, Purgatory would seem a Hell:

"But to Sinners in Hell, Purgatory would be a Paradise."

From what I saw and heard of the complaints and dissatisfaction of the common people in England, I am convinced, if the French had succeeded in establishing a happy and quiet government, whereby the taxes could have been abolished, and the price of provisions reduced, the English would, of themselves, have followed their example, and united with them: for, even during the height of the war, many of the English imitated the fashions, follies, and vices of the French, to an absurd degree.

Few of the English have good sense or candour enough to acknowledge the prevalence and growth of these vices, or defects, among them; but, like the smokers of *beng* (hempseed) in Turkey, when told of the virtues of their ancestors, and their own present degeneracy, make themselves ready for battle, and say, "No nation was ever "exempt from vices: the people and the "governments you describe as possessing "such angelic virtues were not a bit better "than ourselves; and so long as we are "not worse than our neighbours, no danger "is to be apprehended." This reasoning is, however, false; for fire still retains its inflammable nature, whether it is summer or winter; and the flame, though for a short time smothered by a heap of fuel thrown on it, breaks out in the sequel with the greatest violence. In like manner, vice will, sooner or later, cause destruction to its possessor.

CHAP. XX.

The Author describes the Virtues of the English, under the following heads:—Honourable—Respectful to their superiors—Obedient to the laws—Desirous of doing good—Followers of fashion—Sincere in their dispositions—Plain in their manners, and hospitable. Peculiar ideas of the English of the meaning of Perfection. The Author censures some of the customs of London. Fires—Description of the fire-engines—Hardship of the owner of the property burned, being obliged to pay for the use of the engines. The Author dislikes English beds. He censures the custom of retaining handsome footmen to wait on Ladies.

I FEAR, in the foregoing Chapter, I have fatigued my Readers with a long detail of the vices, or defects, of the English: I

shall, therefore, now give some account of their virtues; but, lest I should be accused of flattery, will endeavour to avoid prolixity on this subject.

The first of the English virtues is a high sense of honour, especially among the better classes. This is the effect of a liberal education, and of the contempt with which those who do not possess it are regarded. This sense of honour is carried to such a degree, that men possessing every terrestrial enjoyment, as wealth, estates, wife, and children, will, on the smallest imputation, sacrifice their lives, and the welfare of their families, to recover their reputation, or to wipe off an ignominious slander.

Their second good quality is a reverence for every thing or person possessing superior excellence. This mode of thinking has

this great advantage—it makes them emulous of acquiring the esteem of the world, and thus renders them better men. In other countries, this respect is not paid to superior merit: people will therefore not give themselves any trouble on the subject: wisdom, knowledge, and virtue, are consequently banished from among them.

The third of their perfections is a dread of offending against the rules of propriety, or the laws of the realm: they are therefore generally content with their own situations, and very seldom attempt to exalt themselves by base or nefarious practices. By these means the establishments of Church and State are supported, and the bonds of society strengthened; for when men are ambitious of raising themselves from inferior to exalted situations, they attempt to overcome all obstacles; and though a few gain

their object, the greater part are disappointed, and become, ever after, unhappy and discontented.

The fourth of their virtues is a strong desire to improve the situations of the common people, and an aversion to do any thing which can injure them. It may be said, that in so doing they are not perfectly disinterested; for that the benefits of many of these institutions and inventions revert to themselves.

During my residence in England, and at a time when coals were extremely dear, one of their philosophers invented a kettle, with a small furnace below, which required so little fuel, that a piece of lighted paper, or a burning stick, thrown into the furnace, would cause the water to boil long enough to dress a joint of meat. By means of such

machines, and the various conveniences adopted in the fitting up of a house, so much time and labour are saved, that two servants in England will do the work of fifteen in India.

Their fifth good quality is so nearly allied to weakness, that by some worldly people it has been called such: I mean, an adherence to the rules of fashion. By this arbitrary law, the rich are obliged not only to alter the shape of their clothes every year, but also to change all the furniture of their houses. It would be thought quite derogatory to a person of taste, to have his drawing-room fitted up in the same manner for two successive years. The advantage of this profusion is the encouragement it gives to ingenuity and manufactures of every kind; and it enables the middling and lower classes of people to supply their wants

at a cheap rate, by purchasing the old-fashioned articles.

Their sixth excellence is a passion for mechanism, and their numerous contrivances for facilitating labour and industry.

Their seventh perfection is plainness of manners, and sincerity of disposition: the former is evinced in the colours of their clothes, which are generally of a dark hue, and exempt from all tawdriness; and the latter, by their open and manly conduct.

Their other good qualities are good natural sense and soundness of judgment, which induce them to prefer things that are useful to those that are brilliant; to which may be added, their perseverance in the acquirement of science, and the attainment of wealth and honours.

Their hospitality is also very praiseworthy, and their attention to their guests can nowhere be exceeded. They have an aversion to sit down to table *alone*; and from their liberal conduct on this subject, one would suppose the following verse had been written by an Englishman:

"May the food of the misanthrope be cast to the dogs!
"May he who eats alone be shortly eaten by the worms!"

It is said, that all these virtues were formerly possessed in a greater degree by the English, and that the present race owe much of their fame and celebrity to their ancestors.

The English have very peculiar opinions on the subject of *perfection*. They insist, that it is merely an ideal quality, and de-

pends entirely upon comparison; that mankind have risen, by degrees, from the state of savages to the exalted dignity of the great philosopher NEWTON; but that, so far from having yet attained *perfection*, it is possible that, in future ages, philosophers will look with as much contempt on the acquirements of Newton, as we now do on the rude state of the arts among savages. If this axiom of theirs be correct, man has yet much to learn, and all his boasted knowledge is but vanity.

Having thus given my opinion freely on the vices and virtues of the English, I shall now take the liberty to point out a few of the customs of the metropolis which appear to me reprehensible, and might easily be amended. The number of turnpikes in the vicinity of London are a great grievance: they not only oblige the traveller to stop,

but compel him to take bad copper money in exchange for his silver, and, very often, abusive language into the bargain. This, however, is not quite so disgusting as when a stranger, wishing to visit the House of God, or the Tombs of the Kings, (I mean the Cathedral of Saint Paul, and Westminster Abbey,) is obliged every ten minutes to take out his purse, and pay another and another fee. The same vile practice exists at the Tower, and at most of the public buildings, and ought to be abrogated.

The number of fires which happen in London are a very serious evil, especially as most of them originate from the quantity of wood used in the construction of houses. It has been before mentioned, that the houses of this city are seldom lower than four stories, and join each other: all the floors, stairs, doors, and roof, are of wood;

nay, many have great part of the walls supported by timbers, and some have the apartments lined with painted wainscot. In every room there is a fire-place; so that if, by the carelessness or malevolence of a servant, one of these houses is set on fire, it quickly communicates to the others, and before it can be extinguished burns down half a street.

I should be guilty of an act of injustice, were I not to give the English credit for their invention and adroitness in extinguishing fires. They have machines which, being placed upon wheels and drawn by horses, can be conveyed to any part of the town in a very short time. These machines are worked by a mechanical power, and will throw up water fifty yards high: and as there are pipes of running water under every street, the situation of which is

perfectly known to certain persons, a hole is in a few minutes dug in the pavement, and a plug being drawn from one of the pipes, the water rushes forth and supplies the engine, which may then be worked for twenty-four hours, or longer if necessary.

To each of these machines a number of people are attached, who are paid by the parish. These persons are called *firemen:* they are remarkable for their courage and their honesty: they have been known to enter a house all in flames, and bring thence many valuable articles, which they have delivered to the proprietor.

The only complaint I have against this system is, that a considerable sum of money must be paid to the first engine that arrives, a smaller to the second, and so on: thus, if fifty machines should come to extinguish

a fire, and all their efforts prove ineffectual, the sufferer, who is already ruined by the destruction of his property, is obliged to pay a large sum to the firemen, which doubles his loss, and adds to the anguish of his mind. Notwithstanding the assistance of these machines, there is scarcely a day in which fires do not happen, and cause much mischief; but no pains are taken to make the people rebuild their houses on a better or more secure plan.

The beds, and mode of sleeping, in England, are by no means to my taste. They have, in general, two or three beds, laid one over the other; and the upper one being composed of feathers, a person is immediately swallowed up in them, and finds the greatest difficulty in turning from one side to the other. In the very depth of winter, this is bearable; but as the weather becomes

warmer, it causes pains in the back, and a general relaxation of the frame. Above them, they spread a sheet, two blankets, and a quilt; all of which are closely tucked under the bedding, on three sides, leaving an entrance for the person to creep in next the pillows; which always reminded me of a bear climbing into the hole of a large tree. The bed being broad, and the clothes stretched out, they do not close about the neck, and, for a long time, do not afford any warmth; and if a person turns about incautiously, the four coverings separate, and either fall off the bed, or cause so much trouble, that sleep is completely banished. All my other Indian customs I laid aside without difficulty, but sleeping in the English mode cost me much trouble. Our quilts, stuffed with cotton, and lined with muslin, are so light, and adhere so closely to the body, that they are infinitely more

comfortable and warmer than blankets; and although it may be objected, that to sleep the whole season with the same quilt next the body is an uncleanly custom, I reply, that *we* always sleep in a night-dress, which prevents the quilt touching the skin; whereas the English go to bed nearly naked, and use the same sheets for a fortnight together. It also frequently happens, that a person, in travelling, is put into a bed with damp sheets, the moisture of which is quickly absorbed into the body, and infallibly brings on cold, surfeits, or a deadly fever.

VERSE OF MOULAVY ROUMY.

"These people wandered about in quest of shade, and spread blankets to cover them from the Sun:

"They could not see the branching trees loaded with fruit, because the thick veil of prejudice covered their eyes."

I cannot approve the custom of the nobility and gentry in London retaining a number of handsome footmen, and other male servants, to stand behind a lady's carriage, or to attend her when she walks out. These fellows are, in general, well-looking, and when smartly dressed have an engaging appearance. It should be recollected, that Cupid makes no discrimination between poor and rich, vulgar or noble, the beggar or the king; we are all his slaves, and the subjects of his power. Scandal and dishonour must sometimes be the consequence of such a system.

I think I have now fairly acquitted myself of my promise to describe minutely the character of the English, or at least such as it appeared to me. I shall, in the following Chapter, give an account of the war maintained for so many years by England,

against France and the united Powers of Europe; and then hasten to the continuation of my Travels, after so long a sojourn in one place.

CHAP. XXI.

Of the Geography of Europe—its subdivisions into Kingdoms. Nature of the different Governments in Europe — Commencement of the French Revolution—Rise of Buonaparte—Confederated Armies invade France—History of Hanover—Confederates defeated—English retire from Toulon. Success of Buonaparte in Italy and Switzerland—sent to conquer Egypt. Account of the Naval Engagements which occurred in the course of the war—English Fleet sent in pursuit of Buonaparte—Description of the Battle of Aboukir.

As the affairs of this transitory world are intimately connected with each other, previous to entering on a detail of the wars of the English it becomes requisite to explain the present state of Europe, and its subdivision into various kingdoms.

Be it known, that the branch of the ocean which bounds the north of Europe, is called the Baltic Sea, and encompasses four kingdoms; viz. Russia, Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden. These four kingdoms are, in general, united; but Russia is considered as the leading power. The sea which bounds Europe to the south, is called the Mediterranean, or Sea of *Roum:* this also encompasses four kingdoms, viz. Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Switzerland. Four other states are inclosed within the above-mentioned eight, viz. France, Germany, Poland, and Holland. The islands of Great Britain and Ireland lie considerably to the west of the Continent. It must however be understood, that Germany and Italy are subdivided into a number of petty states, each of which has its sovereign, and particular laws; and as long as the kings of Europe were restrained within the bounds of moderation, these

princes were allowed to remain independent, and to support a certain kind of dignity and splendour.

The governments of the kingdoms of Europe are of various kinds. In some, the King alone bears despotic sway; in some, the nobles hold the reins of authority; in some, the common people preside; and in some there is a mixture of all the three species of government: but there are other countries which do not acknowledge any King. This subject has been particularly explained in a work called the *Lebbi Tuarihh* (Heart of History), which I compiled several years ago from a work written by Mr. Jonathan Scott, for the information of the Nabob Assuf ad Dowleh of Lucknow, and renders any further detail here unnecessary.

The five most powerful sovereigns in

Europe are, the Emperors of Russia and of Germany, and the Kings of Spain, France, and England. The four first rule their territories with despotic sway. The powers of the last have been already described. It is well understood, that although the monarchical form of government has some advantages, yet, if the sovereign be a weak or a wicked man, he may do much mischief, and ruin his subjects.

In the year of the Christian æra 1789, the people of France being disgusted with the tyranny of their government, sent petitions and remonstrances to their King, desiring a reform of the system, and expressing a wish to be placed on a footing with the English. The King and nobles did not, however, pay any attention to these complaints; till, at the end of two years, the people, finding their remonstrances in-

effectual, broke out into a state of open rebellion, and drove away several of their governors. This circumstance aroused the King and the nobles from the lethargy into which they had fallen; and in order to quiet the people, a Parliament, somewhat similar to that of England, was summoned to assemble at Paris.

The discontented persons, being thus assembled together, felt their strength, and increased in their demands. They at length insisted that the French government should be changed to a Republic. It must be explained, that in a republican form of government the King becomes an useless member; and although the nobles are allowed to possess their wealth and titles, they are not permitted to have a greater share of power than any other of the representatives of the people, who are chosen and

displaced annually: neither in a Republic are any pensions allowed to Princes, or salaries granted to any but the effective officers of the State.

As it was impossible for the King to yield to so unreasonable a demand, he not only refused compliance, but ordered the principal proposers of it to be imprisoned. This measure was opposed by the seditious, and many lives were lost on both sides; but the rebels proving victorious, the whole of the common people in the kingdom threw off their allegiance, and raised the standard of revolt. The nobles, alarmed at the danger, fled, with their families and what wealth they could carry with them, into the neighbouring countries. Many of them, in consequence, came to England.

The King, being thus left alone, took

refuge in his castle; but the greater part of the army having espoused the cause of the rebels, he was obliged to submit, and was shortly after, with his wife, tried and put to death.

After this event, a complete revolution of affairs took place in France. The powerful were reduced to weakness, and the base raised to power. The common people elected representatives from the lowest classes; and appointed officers of their own choice, to defend their territories.

It was about the time above mentioned, that Buonaparte, now the despotic sovereign of France, and the most celebrated character in Europe, was promoted to the rank of Colonel, and appointed to the army in Italy.

This Buonaparte is not a Frenchman, but was born in one of the small islands dependent on Ancient Rome, called Corsica; the inhabitants of which are notorious for thieving and robbing. On his first entering the military line, he offered his services to the English; but having been rejected by them, he entered the Republican army, and, by his wisdom, bravery, and good fortune, has raised himself to the exalted situation he now possesses.

The common people of all the countries in Europe, hearing of the success of the French, shewed symptoms of revolt; according to the proverb, "One peach by looking at another becomes red:" and even England was infected with the contagion.

About this time, the relations of the murdered King made application to all the

Sovereigns of Europe to espouse their cause: and the English Ministers, thinking that some advantage might be reaped in assisting them, and that, at all events, a war against France would keep the people quiet at home, sent a large army, under the command of the Duke of York, the King's second son, to invade that country.

Several of the Kings of Europe, being of the same opinion as the English Ministers, entered into a confederacy also to invade France. The principal of these were, the Sovereigns of Spain, Holland, and Germany: the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Prussia, also promised to join; and the latter, under pretence of raising an army, received a subsidy of several millions of money from England, but never sent a man to their assistance.

When the Russians and Prussians found the confederated Powers were deeply engaged in the war against France, they invaded the kingdom of Poland, consisting of fourteen fine provinces, and divided it between themselves. This was the first act of treachery practised in Europe, by a powerful against an inferior State. This bad example was, however, soon repeated, in the partition of Hanover, the ancient territory of the King of England, by the Prussians, Russians, and Germans, each of which took an equal share.

Be it known, that the fourth ancestor of King George the Third was Sovereign of Hanover, and kept a standing army of 20,000 men, and also struck the coin in his own name. He was, notwithstanding all this greatness, dependent on the Emperor of Germany; but owing to one of the

revolutions in human affairs, and his relationship to the former Royal Family of England, he was chosen King of that country, though he still continued to govern his own territories by deputy.

Hanover was, as I have above related, taken possession of by treachery: and although King George could easily have retaken it, his Ministers and the Parliament, being of opinion that the possession of that country had always been a great injury to England, and that it had cost more to protect it than it was worth, would not give their consent to an army being sent thither for the purpose of recovering it; and it was thus left in the hands of the Prussians and others.

The army which England sent to assist the partizans of the murdered King of

France soon captured the fort and harbour of Toulon. The confederate armies at the same time, having marched through Holland, advanced far into France, and took possession of many towns in the name of the young Prince, then a prisoner in the hands of the rebels, and were daily joined by a number of the well-wishers of the royal family.

The affairs of the Republicans were at this time reduced to a very low ebb; and it was confidently expected that the Allies would in a few days gain possession of Paris: but the French having determined to try the event of a general engagement, collected the whole of their force at one place, and gained a complete victory over all their enemies.

The English were anxious to revenge

this defeat; but the Spaniards and Hollanders refusing to co-operate any longer, the former found it requisite to retire from Toulon: they (the English) in consequence re-embarked their troops; and having burned sixteen of the French ships of war in the harbour, carried away with them the remainder, amounting to nine ships of the line, and several frigates.

The French, having thus driven all their enemies out of their own territories, advanced into Holland, and took possession of that country. They then turned their arms against the Germans and the Russians. During this time, the son of the murdered King was conveyed from place to place, and at length sent into the other world, in some manner never hitherto explained.

Buonaparte's fame continuing to increase,

he was appointed, by the interest of M. Barras, to the command of the army in Italy. After his conquest of that kingdom, he proceeded to Switzerland, where, aided by his aspiring genius and invincible courage, he not only overcame all the obstacles of nature and season in that mountainous and cold region, but obtained a complete victory over the Germans, and in a short time got quiet possession of the whole of that country.

Although the French found themselves masters of the Continent, they durst not send an army to invade England, because of the superiority of the British navy: they therefore resolved, as they could not approach the stem or root of the tree, that they would endeavour to lop off the branches. They, in consequence, sent an army to take possession of and plunder

Hanover. They also sent an army to assist the disaffected party in Ireland, who, on account of some religious differences, and the intrigues of the French, have frequently rebelled against their legitimate Sovereign.

Whilst these events occupied the attention of the western world, Buonaparte was sent, with an army of 50,000 men and a numerous train of artillery, to take possession of Egypt; with instructions, that, after the conquest of that country, he should proceed to India, and, having united himself with Tippoo Sultan, drive the English both from the Dekhan and Bengal.

These schemes were quickly discovered by the English, who, trusting to the superiority of their navy, were not at all alarmed by these desperate undertakings of the enemy. They, in the first place, easily

defeated the army sent to Ireland; and having subdued the rebellion in that country, they despatched a fleet in pursuit of Buonaparte.

Previous to entering on a detail of the operations of this expedition, I think it requisite to give some account of the different naval engagements which occurred in the course of this war. I shall not notice the battles which have been fought between a few ships of the contending parties, but confine my descriptions to the operations of their fleets. Of this kind there were six memorable battles fought during the late contest, in all of which the English were victorious, and convinced the French, that, *at sea*, they were not able to contend with the English. Their ships were therefore compelled, either to take refuge under their forts, or to remain unemployed in harbour;

while the English ships roved over all the seas, and prevented the French generals from making use of the advantages they had gained by land.

The first victory gained by the English, during the late war, was by the fleet commanded by Lord Howe, in the year 1794, on the coast of France. In this engagement the English had but twenty-five ships, and the French twenty-six: of these, six were taken, and one sunk: the remainder fled into one of their own ports.

The second battle was fought on the coast of Spain, by Lord St. Vincent. He had but fourteen ships, and the enemy twenty-seven: of these, four large Spanish ships were captured.

The third was fought on the coast of

Holland, by Lord Duncan's fleet, in 1798. His lordship had twenty-four, and the enemy twenty-six ships: of these, nine were taken.

The fourth was Lord Nelson's battle of the Nile, in 1799, with the fleet which conveyed Buonaparte's army to Egypt. His lordship had thirteen ships, and the French seventeen: of these, nine were captured, three burned, and one sunk.

The fifth battle was fought by Sir James Saumarez, against the united fleet of France and Spain, in the year 1801. In this engagement, although the English had but five ships, and the enemy nine, four of the latter were burned, and one taken.

The sixth engagement was when Lord Nelson attacked Copenhagen, the capital

of Denmark; some account of which has already been given in this Work. In that instance, seventeen of the enemy's ships were burned or destroyed, besides much damage done to the town.

I shall now return to the pursuit of Buonaparte. When the English were informed of the great preparations making by the French, previous to the invasion of Egypt, they supposed that so formidable an army must be intended, either for the invasion of England, or to attack India; yet as these preparations were confined to the ports in the Mediterranean Sea, and it would be requisite for the French to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar (on one side of which the English possess an impregnable fortress) to attain either of these objects, Lord St. Vincent was sent with a fleet of twenty-five ships, to prevent their

getting out; but, after his lordship had been cruizing for some time in the Straits, he received authentic information, that the French fleet had put to sea, and steered eastward. As, some years previous to this event, the Spaniards had joined the French, and *they* had also a fleet of twenty-four ships ready to put to sea, Lord St. Vincent deemed it imprudent to quit the Straits with his whole fleet: he therefore detached Lord Nelson, with thirteen ships, in pursuit of the French, and remained himself, with the other twelve, to watch the motions of the Spaniards. Whether it was owing to the latter not feeling any interest in the success of the war, or that, even with such a superiority, they were still afraid of the English, they did not quit their ports.

Lord Nelson having received some intimation that the French fleet were bound

to Egypt, steered directly for Alexandria; but, on his arrival there, he could obtain no intelligence respecting them. He therefore returned towards Sicily; and, on his way thither, was informed that the French had been at Malta, and were then certainly gone to Egypt. This news was joyfully received by Lord Nelson, who made no doubt of giving a good account of the French, whenever he should meet with them. He therefore summoned all his captains on board his own ship, and gave them directions for their conduct, according to the situation in which they might find the enemy.

The French having arrived safely off Egypt, immediately landed their troops, and drew up their fleet in the Bay of Aboukir: they also erected batteries, for its defence, on the shore. On the 1st of August, 1798,

Lord Nelson came in sight of the French; and, having attentively observed their position, resolved, instead of attacking them in the common mode, that is, by laying one of his own ships against each of the enemy's, to cut them off by detail: he therefore made the signal for six of his ships to get between the French and the land, and to cast anchor alongside the six windward vessels of the enemy; while he, with the remainder of his fleet, did the same on the outward side: by this means he got the French between two fires, and in a short time subdued their first division; he then proceeded to take or destroy the remainder. This mode of attack was quite unknown before, and totally unexpected by the French, who, in consequence of the batteries on the shore, and the little depth of water between them and the land, considered themselves perfectly unassailable on that

side, and had, in consequence, drawn all the heavy guns of their ships to the opposite side. It was one of those measures which evince a great genius, and a manœuvre that none but an English officer would have thought of: for although it was attended with some risk, on account of the shallowness of water, (and, in fact, one of the ships did run aground, and suffered much annoyance from the batteries on shore,) the advantages were so manifest, that when the plan was proposed, no brave man could object to it.

VERSE OF SADY.

"By the sword you may kill one in a thousand of your enemies;

"But by good judgment you may destroy his whole army."

The most extraordinary part of this engagement was, its having taken place at night, in so dangerous a situation. The battle

commenced in the evening, and terminated with the blowing up of the French admiral's ship at midnight. I saw an exhibition of this engagement in one of the Panoramas (the nature of which I have before described): the sight of it was really dreadful, and gave me an idea of the horrors of the Day of Judgment.

CHAP. XXII.

Conquests of the English by land, during the late war. Origin of the war with Tippoo Sultan—Reflections of the Author on the events of the contest. Invasion of Egypt by Buonaparte—Siege of Acre. Second Confederacy against France. Buonaparte invited to return—leaves Egypt, and arrives in France—dissolves the National Assembly—defeats the Confederates. A Turkish army, sent to expel the French from Egypt, defeated—The English send an army, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, to their assistance, which lands at Aboukir—Battle between the French and English—Indian army land at Cosseir—The Turks advance to Cairo—joined by part of the English army—Cairo capitulates—Alexandria capitulates. Buonaparte threatens to invade England—Lord Nelson destroys some of the French boats. Peace concluded.

BESIDES the victories gained at sea, during the late war, by the English, they made several conquests on land. Of these, the most important was the Cape of Good Hope, which they took from the Dutch in the year 1795. The circumstances of the capture of that place have been already detailed: I shall only add, that if it had fallen into the hands of the French, and they could have kept a strong fleet there, the route to India would have been nearly barred up. From the French they took the Island of Malta (a particular account of which shall be given in the sequel of this Narrative); the Island of Martinique; and an extensive country in America, called Surinam. From the Spaniards they took the Islands of Minorca and Trinidad; and from the Dutch, besides the Cape of Good Hope, the territory dependent on which is very extensive, they took the valuable Island

of Ceylon, on which, it is said, they found stores of cinnamon and other drugs, worth two millions sterling. They also took possession of all the settlements of the French, Dutch, and Danes, in India.

The capture of Seringapatam, and the death of Tippoo Sultan, are events so well known, that I should not have thought it requisite to mention them here, were it not to render the list of the English conquests complete, and to explain a few circumstances which are not generally understood.

After Buonaparte had gotten possession of Egypt, he privately opened a correspondence with Tippoo Sultan; and promised, that he would shortly send such a force as should enable him to drive the English from India. Some of these letters having fallen into the hands of the English, who were

then at peace with the Sultan, irritated and alarmed them exceedingly: they therefore demanded, that he should make over to them, during the period the English continued at war with France, certain forts which covered the sea-ports of his dominions; promising that the forts should be returned to him, in the same state they were received, as soon as the war terminated. He was further informed, that if he did not break off all connexion with the French, the consequences would be fatal to him. Tippoo either was ignorant of the power of the English *nation*, and judged of their strength and ability by the wars in which he had formerly been engaged with them, at a time when the councils of the English were not united; or imputed their *moderation* on a former occasion to some less worthy motive: he therefore would not listen to this salutary exhortation, but boldly

determined on hostility; and, led on by his evil destiny, instead of pursuing his father's mode of warfare, that is, by laying waste the country, and harassing the English with his cavalry and repeated skirmishes, he foolishly tried his strength in a general engagement; and when defeated, shut himself up in the fortress of Seringapatam; where he vainly hoped to resist people, who, by their contrivances, would scale the heavens, if requisite.

The British army, under the command of General Harris, invested his capital, and, in a short time, made an opening, by which a large body of them entered. The Sultan set his troops a good example, and fought at their head as long as he could: till, having received three wounds, he fell from his horse, under the arch of the gate leading to the inner fort, and shortly after expired.

The fort having been taken, search was made for the Sultan's body, and, after several hours, it was discovered under a heap of slain.

By the capture of this single fortress, the English got possession of the whole of Tippoo Sultan's wealth and family, and, in fact, of all his dominions: never was so rapid a conquest known; for from the time the British troops were first put in motion, till the termination of the war, only four months had elapsed.

Had Tippoo acted with common prudence, he should have entrusted the defence of Seringapatam to one of his generals, and remained with his army outside; where, by cutting off the supplies of the English, and frequently harassing them, he might have prolonged the siege; and, at all events,

could have retreated to some other part of his territories, and continued the war: but he had too much pride to leave his family and wealth in a fortress invested by the enemy, and resolved rather to die in defence of what he considered his honour. One of our Poets has well said:

VERSE.

"When Fortune turns away her face from a man, he does precisely that which he ought not to do."

In my account of Dublin, I mentioned having seen the principal events of *The Capture of Seringapatam* exhibited on the stage, by which I was very much affected.

The English have also to boast, among their conquests, the expulsion of the French from Egypt, and a temporary possession of that country. To explain this assertion, it becomes requisite to revert to the invasion of Egypt by Buonaparte. That celebrated

general landed his troops in the vicinity of Alexandria; and as the Turks were not prepared to resist him, he got possession of that fortress in a few days. Thence he marched to Grand Caïro; and as that city, although the capital of the kingdom, was only defended by a mob, composed of Mamelukes, Turks, and Cophts, armed with bludgeons and slings, they were soon dispersed by the victorious troops of France, aided by muskets and cannon. Many of the Mamelukes also, disgusted with the Turkish government, joined the invaders: the remainder took refuge in the deserts, and the Turks fled towards Constantinople; thus leaving the French in quiet possession of the country.

Buonaparte, either terrified by the destruction of his fleet at Aboukir, or having some presentiment of the honour awaiting him at Paris, instead of pushing on his troops

towards India, according to his instructions, resolved to secure the sea-coast on the east side of the Mediterranean; supposing that, when master of an extensive coast, he could more easily elude the vigilance of the British cruizers, and thus keep up his connexion with the mother country. In consequence of this determination, he marched with a large army into Syria, or Palestine, and laid siege to Acre, the seat of government of one of the Turkish Pashas. It fortunately happened, that Jezzar Pasha, the governor, was a man of consummate courage; but having little experience of European warfare, and but an undisciplined garrison, he was much alarmed at the approach of the all-conquering French, under their invincible general.

It so happened, that Sir Sidne, Smith, a captain in the British navy, was at that

time cruizing in the Mediterranean Sea with three ships of war; and having learnt Buonaparte's intentions, offered his services, to assist in the defence of Acre. This proposal was gratefully accepted by Jezzar Pasha; and Sir Sidney, having anchored his own ship in a situation that flanked the fort, landed with a party of his sailors, and, pointing out to the Turks the weakest parts of the fortification, assisted in repairing them; after which he stationed his own people at the points most likely to be attacked. During this period, Buonaparte, full of confidence, and flushed with victory, made the requisite preparations for storming the fort. Eleven times he marched his troops up to the attack, and as often were they repulsed by the united efforts of the Turks and English sailors. In each of these attempts many of his men fell, from the well-served fire of the cannon, both from the fort and

the ships; and, after losing upwards of 5000 men, he was compelled to make a hasty and disgraceful retreat towards Egypt.

This siege was also very well represented in one of the Panoramas. The portraits of the Pasha, of Buonaparte, and Sir Sidney, were said to be striking likenesses; and the spectator might imagine himself at once transported from London, into the midst of the horrid scene of confusion and slaughter.

The enemies of Buonaparte, in Paris, took advantage of this defeat, to slander him; and, for many months, the Republic never sent him any supplies of provisions, recruits, or money: this, however, may have been caused by the vigilance of the British navy.

About this period, a new confederacy of

the Powers of Europe was formed against the French; and a large army of Russians and Germans prepared to invade that country. The Republic was, at the same time, torn in pieces by factions; and it was evident, without an able chief to direct them they must infallibly be ruined. Impressed with these sentiments, a strong party wrote to Buonaparte, that, if he could return to France, they would elect him First Consul, and place the reins of government in his hands.

In consequence of these despatches, Buonaparte made over the command of the army in Egypt to M. Menou, a very weak man; and embarked privately on board a small, but quick-sailing vessel, which, in despite of all the English cruizers, landed him safe in France. The day after his arrival in Paris, the Representatives assembled in their

Parliament-house as usual, without any arms or guard. They had scarcely begun their debates, when Buonaparte entered, surrounded by his partizans and twenty armed soldiers: some of the most forward of the opposite party he confined; and dispersed the remainder, by informing them their services were no longer required. He afterwards filled all the public offices with his own friends, and was, by their vote, proclaimed *First Consul of the French Republic*. He soon after took the command of the army, and marched against the Confederates. It is astonishing with what facility he defeated these great Potentates; and having obliged them to sue for peace, he returned, victorious and triumphant, to Paris.

Some months subsequent to the conclusion of peace with the Germans and Russians, Buonaparte assumed the title of

'President of the Republic of Italy,' and persuaded the French to elect him 'First Consul *for life*.' Thus he daily increased in dignity and power, and, by degrees, usurped all the authority of the government. During the period that I resided at Marseilles, he ordered the coin to be stamped with his own image. He did not, however, at that time, venture to assume the title of King or Emperor.

After the departure of Buonaparte from Egypt, the Grand Signior (properly, Emperor of the Ottomans) sent a numerous army, under the command of his principal Vizier, Yusuf Pasha, to expel the French from that country. But the Turks are now so ignorant of the art of war, that, although infinitely more numerous than their enemy, they received several very shameful defeats, and evinced to the whole world their weakness and want of courage.

This event drew aside the veil which had long concealed from public view the imaginary powers of the Turkish government, by which they had formerly made such extensive conquests in Europe, and the effects of which are still severely and impatiently felt by several of the neighbouring Christian sovereigns. The Germans and Russians, therefore, prepared to take advantage of the difficulties with which the Turks were now overwhelmed, in their contest with France.

In this dilemma, the English sent an army of 15,000 men, under the command of General Abercrombie, (brother of the late Commander-in-chief in India,) to assist the Turks in expelling the French from Egypt. They also ordered another army to be sent from India, by the Red Sea and Suez, to co-operate in this undertaking. General Abercrombie landed his troops at

Aboukir, though opposed by the French, who were drawn up with a numerous train of artillery on the shore, and compelled them to take refuge in the fortress of Alexandria.

Some days after this event, General Menou having joined the French with a large reinforcement from Caïro, a general engagement took place between the two armies; in which, although Sir Ralph Abercrombie and four thousand of the English were killed, the French were completely defeated.

In this battle a celebrated corps of the French, who had ever accompanied Buonaparte in all his conquests, and were honoured with the title of 'The Victorious and Invincible Legion,' were totally routed, and their colours taken. After this disgrace, the French retreated to Alexandria.

In neither of these battles did the English receive the smallest assistance from their allies the Turks, but gained both victories by the prowess of their own arms; and convinced their enemies, that they were as formidable on shore as at sea.

It was about this time that the army from India, having landed at Cosseir in the Red Sea, prepared to pass the Desert, in order to gain the banks of the Nile.

The Turkish Vizier, encouraged by the success of his allies, again assembled a numerous army, and advanced towards Caïro. By his request, a detachment of the English army also moved in the same direction, and laid siege to that city.

As, at this time, discord prevailed amongst the French generals, and every

hope of assistance from the mother country was cut off, they thought it advisable to capitulate; and gave up Caïro to the Grand Vizier, on condition of being sent home. The English soon after got possession of Alexandria, on the same terms. Thus the French were expelled from Egypt, and all their vain hopes of proceeding to India by that route completely annihilated.

After Malta and Egypt had fallen into the hands of his enemies, Buonaparte was secretly desirous of making peace; but, far from openly avowing his wishes, he affected a determination of prosecuting the war against the English with the utmost vigour. For this purpose he assembled an innumerable army at Calais, which is the nearest port to England, and is situated directly opposite to Dover. He also ordered an immense number of flat-bottomed boats,

and gun-boats, to be assembled at the same place, for the purpose of conveying his army across the Channel, which, at this place, is only twenty-one miles over.

* * *

In order to oppose this invasion, the English stationed a large army, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, in the vicinity of Dover; and sent Lord Nelson, with a number of small vessels, to destroy the boats. In the first attack his lordship sunk several of the boats; but as they were linked together with chains, he was not so successful as he expected. In a subsequent attack, the French, having been aware of his lordship's intentions, posted a great number of soldiers below the decks of the boats, armed only with swords and daggers (in the use of which the French are said to excel all other Europeans), who waited quietly till the English had boarded, and were trying to

cut away the chains; they then rushed out, and compelled Lord Nelson to retire, with the loss of seven hundred men.

After this event, both sides being equally anxious for peace, (Buonaparte with the hopes of recruiting his navy, and the English Ministers in order to satisfy the common people, who were very clamorous on account of the taxes and high price of provisions,) Lord Cornwallis was sent over to France as Plenipotentiary, to adjust all differences. After three months of continual discussion, his lordship concluded a treaty of peace, on the following terms:

1. That all the conquests made by the French, in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Holland, should remain to them for ever.

2. That the Islands of Ceylon and Trinidad should remain in possession of the English.

3. That the Cape of Good Hope should be restored to the Dutch; Egypt to the Turks; and Malta, &c. to their former possessors.

This event gave great satisfaction to the inhabitants of London. For three days the streets resounded with festivity and rejoicing; and at night the moon was eclipsed by the splendour of the illuminations.

CHAP. XXIII.

The Author resolves to return to India—His purposed route—He quits London—Disgusted with Dover—Embarks for France—Account of his journey to Paris—Description of that city—Its Public Buildings—Hot and Cold Baths—Mode of washing clothes—Coffee-houses—French cookery—Houses—Lodging-houses—Lighting of the streets at night—Pavement—Description of the Boulevards—Palais Royal—Manufacture of China—Tuileries—Louvre—Public Gardens—Phantasmagoria—Public Library—Opera, and Play-houses.

As I had been for some time anxious to return to India, I determined to avail myself of the favourable opportunity of a general peace to do so; and, at the same time, to

gratify my curiosity, by visiting several countries, the fame of which had excited my attention. The route I proposed to take was, through France, Germany, and Hungary, to Constantinople; thence through Turkey in Asia, either to Arabia or the Persian Gulf, whence to India the passage by sea is short.

After a residence of two years and five (Lunar) months in London, I bade adieu to my friends; and on the 10th of the month Suffur, A. H. 1217, corresponding with the 7th of June 1802, I set out in the stage coach for Dover.

As the distance was only seventy miles, we arrived at Dover the same evening; and as we did not stop to dine on the road, I meant to have regaled myself with a good English meal before I quitted that beloved

country: but the inhabitants of Dover are so contaminated with French manners, that to my great disappointment all the dishes were dressed according to the rules of French cookery; and the people of the inn, seeing me a foreigner, would talk nothing but that language. In one particular they adhered to their English customs, which was in the extravagance of their bill, every article being charged even higher than the London prices. The custom-house officers were also, I thought, exceedingly troublesome, and objected to articles which I am convinced they had no right to do, merely to obtain fees.

The following day we embarked on board a packet, and in six hours were safely landed at Calais, a celebrated sea-port of France. It fortunately happened for me that one of my fellow-passengers in the stage coach was

a gentleman of the most compassionate and liberal character. He was an Anglo-American merchant, named Neil, who was going to Paris to procure the liberation of his ship, which a year before had been unjustly seized by one of the French cruizers. He, seeing the impositions attempted to be put on me at Dover, and my total ignorance of the French language, on our arrival at Calais kindly offered to be my interpreter and bursar on the journey. These offices he faithfully and diligently performed; and it was with much difficulty I could prevail on him to accept of the sum he had expended on my account, when we arrived at Paris.

After supper we got into a heavy coach, called a *Diligence*, but which, from the tediousness of its motion, reminded me of a Hindoostany carriage drawn by oxen; and after three nights and two days of incessant

travelling, we at length reached Paris. During the whole of this journey, the country was beautiful and highly cultivated; rich fields of corn were here and there divided by vineyards, or orchards of delicious fruit; rivulets of clear water crossed the road in various places, over which were constructed neat stone bridges; and every few miles we came to a populous town or village. In these respects it appeared to me superior to England. The cows and other animals were however thin and poor looking, and resembled those of India. The horses had the appearance of the Persian or Arabian breed, and better looking than the English, but I was informed were not near so good. It was on this journey I first observed oxen used in Europe to draw carriages. Many of the French dogs are exceedingly beautiful, and so small, that they are carried by ladies under their arms, to prevent their being fatigued.

The roads were very broad and level, and the sides were planted with rows of shady trees, which, in the summer, must be a great comfort to the traveller. Many of the towns are surrounded by walls, and have all the appearance of fortresses.

The villages in France are exceedingly mean, and do not at all resemble their towns. I thought the female peasants very disgusting, both in their manners and their dress: the attire of the village girls in India, in comparison with these, is infinitely superior. The inns on the road were also execrable, and filthy to such a degree, that I could neither eat nor drink in them with any pleasure.

As I had determined to remain only a short period in Paris, I lost no time in viewing every part of it; and shall here

endeavour to give a description of that city, together with a short account of the character and customs of the inhabitants.

The capital of France is an extensive and noble city, and, in its exterior appearance, far surpasses London. Its public buildings are all of stone, and are seldom less than eight stories high; some houses have even eleven stories. A considerable river of fresh water, called the Seine, runs through it; from which several canals have been cut, to communicate with the different parts of the city: over these canals are many bridges; and over the river itself there are three handsome stone bridges, nearly as long as those of London.

Paris can boast of a great number of both hot and cold baths, which are much frequented by the inhabitants. I was par-

ticularly delighted with those which they have constructed on boats, and are moored in the river. The mode of constructing them is this: they first procure a large flat-bottomed boat, on which they build twelve or more cabins or apartments, which are painted, and neatly fitted up with the proper furniture: in each of these apartments there is placed a copper bath or cistern; and on the top of the boat are large boilers for the hot, and reservoirs for the cold water, which communicate, by pipes secured by brass cocks, with the cistern below; so that the bather can modify the temperature of the bath to any degree he likes. The reservoirs are filled, and the cisterns emptied, by means of pumps worked by the stream, by which there is a constant supply of fresh water, without any trouble or expence; and two or three persons are sufficient to keep every thing

clean, and in good order. They have baths of this kind entirely appropriated to females, of which the servants are of course all women. This institution is well deserving of imitation. Some of these boats have covered steps, which communicate with the river, for the benefit of those who wish to swim. Others have a small deck near the stern, on which a table is generally laid out with refreshments, for those who may feel hungry after their ablutions, or may be inclined to sit and enjoy the cool air and prospect of the city. The mode of getting to these boats is by a long plank, two feet broad, which is extended from them to the shore, with a rail on each side to take hold of.

The people who wash clothes have boats also fitted up for the purpose: their boilers and tubs are below, and the deck is hung

round with lines for drying. Owing to this simple invention, the clothes are much better washed and bleached here than in London, where the occupation is often practised either in a cellar or in a garret, amidst smoke and dust.

In Paris the coffee-houses are innumerable, but in general are very filthy; and as many of the French smoke *segars* or *cheroots* in them at all hours of the day, they smell shockingly of tobacco. A person is also much annoyed by beggars at these places: they follow a gentleman into the room, and sometimes even take hold of his hand, to move his compassion, or rather to tire him by their importunity: they are, however, content with a trifle, and will sometimes be satisfied by a piece of bread: to obtain this favour, they have frequently to contend with a surly rival, in the form

of a large dog, whose filth is lying about in different parts of the room.

I had been so long accustomed to English cookery, that during the whole of my residence in France and Italy I could never relish their culinary process. Their roasted meats are burned up, and retain not a drop of gravy: the boiled meats were also overdone, and quite stringy. The French are exceedingly fond of mixtures, that is, meat stewed with vegetables, and a great quantity of garlic, spices, &c. On this account I have frequently risen hungry from a table of thirty dishes, on the dressing of which much pains had been bestowed, and principally on my account. The only good dinners I ever ate in these countries were at the houses of English or Americans, who had taken pains to instruct their servants in the proper mode. Neither could I relish

their pies or tarts, &c. as an inspection of their pastry-cooks' shops had prejudiced me strongly against them.

During my residence in England, I often heard people railing against the exorbitant price of different commodities, and praising the cheapness of things abroad; but I declare, I found both France and Italy much more expensive than England, and the things not so good.

I have before mentioned that the exterior appearance of Paris is superior to London; so, in this respect, are their houses: they are very lofty, and have a great deal of gilding and finery about them; but, in the interior, they are not by any means so neatly or comfortably fitted up as the English houses.

The pleasures of this life depend much

upon the attainment of three things:— 1st, A clean, comfortable, and private house, to reside in. For such a situation, a stranger in Paris may seek in vain. 2dly, Good eating and drinking. Of this pleasure I was deprived by the badness of their cookery. 3dly, A facility of procuring those things which are requisite for our comfort. The better classes of inhabitants probably enjoy these means, but they are unattainable by a traveller.

A lodging-house in Paris, which is probably eight stories high, and contains fifty or sixty persons of both sexes, has only one entrance, and one yard. The noise and dirt made by such a crowd may be easily imagined. In these houses it is not customary to hang bells; and as the servants never think of visiting the rooms but once a day, that is, when they make the bed and

bring up water, it becomes absolutely requisite for a person who wishes for any comfort, to hire a servant of his own, to whom he is obliged to pay a guinea a week. In France they seldom think of cleaning the grate, or fire-place; it is consequently a disgusting object: whereas, in England, I always thought it an ornament to the room, and a good coal fire more beautiful than a bouquet of flowers.

In some of the streets of Paris, there are, at night, a few lamps which yield a glimmering light, barely sufficient for a man of keen sight to find his way; and, as the shopkeepers do not light up their windows as in London, the city has then a very sombre appearance. In those streets which have not lamps, you frequently see a lantern suspended from the roof of a house by a long rope, which in the day-time has a

disgusting and mean effect. The streets in Paris are not flagged on the sides, as in London; a rough pavement extends all the way across the street; and as the carriages drive up close to the doors, the foot-passengers are in constant danger of being driven over: on this account there is no pleasure in walking the streets of Paris, either by day or night.

In some measure to compensate for the above deficiency, there is a broad road, formed by the ramparts of the ancient city, which extends in a circle, for many miles, and is called the *Boulevards*. This road is properly divided into three portions: the middle, which is twenty-five yards wide, is allotted to horses and carriages, and the two sides are appropriated to the foot-passengers. Four rows of shady trees have been planted all along this road, which not

only add to its beauty but to its comfort. Under the two exterior rows of trees, a number of tables are laid out with fruit, sherbet, pictures, toys &c. the property of petty tradesmen, who take their station here during the day, and return to their homes at night. As these people undersell the regular shopkeepers, their stalls are always crowded, either by persons wishing to purchase cheap bargains, or by passengers, induced from curiosity to look at their articles: in short, this walk is never empty.

A second favourite place of recreation of the Parisians is the *Palais Royal*. This place, previous to the Revolution, was the residence of the King's Brother, but is now thrown open to the Public. The garden, which is surrounded by a wall, is an oblong square, five hundred yards long by two hundred wide; it is divided by a number of gravel walks, shaded by trees, into par-

terres of roses and other shrubs, flowers, &c.; at the ends are two lofty halls, sixty feet long by thirty wide, open in front, and supported by stone pillars; and within the inclosure there are not less than twenty-five handsome coffee-houses, all of which are open to the garden. Morning and evening these rooms are crowded with persons of both sexes; especially one which is situated opposite the centre cross walk, and has a wide circular verandah. These gardens are the constant resort of thousands of people; who, when tired of walking, or meeting by chance with a friend, retire to the coffee-houses, and refresh themselves with wine, sherbet, fruit, or ice. I must here acknowledge that the French surpass the Persians, Indians, and English, in the manufacture of this latter article.

A place frequented by such a concourse of people must of course be the favourite

resort of courtezans; hundreds of them are to be met in every walk; and the houses in the vicinity are filled with them. It is distressing to see a place, once the residence of Royalty, perverted to so ignoble purposes.

* * *

Near to the grand gate of the Palais Royal is an extensive and lofty building, converted into shops, in which are displayed some of the richest manufactures and finest productions of the country. I was particularly attracted by the jewellers' and china shops. It is requisite here to explain, that the French are celebrated all over Europe for the manufacture of china; it is difficult to say whether the beauty of the painting, the richness of the gilding, or the transparency of the material, is most estimable; in short, it is so highly prized, that, in England and other countries, it is either shewn as a curiosity, or only used when

a guest of great consequence visits the house. The French are also famous for making very large mirrors.

A third place of resort for the luxurious inhabitants of Paris is the garden or pleasure-grounds of the *Tuileries*, a celebrated palace, now occupied by Buonaparte. These grounds are divided into two portions: that next the palace is used as a parade for the troops; and, at times, five or six thousand horse are drawn up within the inclosure. On the side next the city, this garden is fenced in by a lofty iron railing, with two immense gates, such as in India are called *phateks*: on both sides of the gates are erected a number of stone pillars, on which are placed brazen statues of horses as large as life, part of the plunder brought from Rome by Buonaparte, and said to be the work of the most celebrated ancient masters. After passing

through the square, you enter what are properly the Tuilerie gardens, which communicate with the city by various roads. These gardens are an oblong square, about two miles in circumference: in them are several rivulets of running water, and large fountains with lofty *jets d'eau;* also several gravel walks, shaded by umbrageous trees, under which stand a great variety of admired statues, all of which have been brought from the conquered countries. Tents are pitched in different places, in which they sell coffee, wine, sherbet, ice, fruit, &c. On the outside of the gardens there is an extensive park, adorned with shady trees and streams of water; the whole bounded by a deep wet ditch. From this park, on the right hand, is a beautiful view of the principal buildings of the city; and on the left hand there is an extensive prospect of the river, with its superb bridges. In this park a number of tents are also pitched, in which the people

are either continually dancing to the sound of harmonious music, or exhibiting their skill in fencing to the surrounding multitude. It may be unnecessary to state, that in the vicinity of these tents abundance of refreshments are to be procured. In my opinion, this park is the pleasantest place about Paris, for walking and recreation.

The places I have hitherto described are better adapted to the taste and customs of the common people, than of the higher classes; but in the *Louvre*, all persons of science or liberal education may find an inexhaustible fund of amusement and information. The Louvre is a repository of all the pictures, select statues, and other curiosities, plundered by Buonaparte and other French generals, from all the countries they have overrun; but the most valuable of them were brought from Rome. The sciences of

sculpture and painting were formerly much better understood than they are at the present time. During the reigns of the Cæsars, these arts, especially the former, flourished to a great degree; but on the extinction of their power, the sciences were, for some centuries, totally neglected. Fortunately, the Popes, or Vicars of Jesus Christ, who succeeded to the government of Rome, and some of the Princes of Italy, collected a number of the statues, and a few pictures, which they carefully preserved. These have ever since served as models and copies for the artists of later times, who used to travel from all parts of Europe to Rome, to perfect themselves in their profession. When Buonaparte took possession of that city, he scrupled not to plunder these venerable repositories, and ordered the most valuable articles to be selected, and sent to Paris.

The Louvre is a very extensive and lofty building. The whole of the lower story is filled with statues and heavy articles, the perfections of which I was not a competent judge of. On the first floor you enter a magnificent room, three hundred feet square, and one hundred and fifty high, lighted from the top by glass windows, in iron frames, laid in a sloping position, which not only give abundance of light, but keep out the rain and snow as well as a tiled roof. On the walls of this room, from top to bottom, are suspended many thousands of the most beautiful and valuable pictures the imagination can fancy. After passing this room, you enter a gallery ninety feet wide, and half a mile long: on the walls of this gallery are suspended a great variety of pictures, in gilt frames, and covered with glass to preserve them from the effects of the weather. The number of pictures in this collection is im-

mense, and the value incalculable: some of them are seventy feet in length, and thirty in height. In short, after viewing the Louvre, I considered the pictures and other curiosities I had seen in Dublin and London merely as children's playthings. This place, as well as those before described, is supported at the public expence, and the people are admitted gratis: this serves to amuse them, and renders Buonaparte's government popular.

Besides the places of amusement already described, there is not a division of the city but has half-a-dozen public gardens, or other exhibitions: the principal of these are the Italian gardens, the Frescati and the Tivoli; in each of which there is an exhibition of fireworks, dancing, &c. every evening, and abundance of refreshments of all kinds to be procured.

I was particularly entertained in Paris by an invention called *Phantasmagoria.* I cannot explain the principles of this art, further than it can only be exhibited in a dark room, and is effected by transparent paintings and shadows. A figure appears, apparently at a great distance, and sometimes as if coming from the roof of the house: it is at first very small, not larger than a star, but increases in size as it approaches. One of these figures represented a dead person in a shrowd, which approached by degrees, and, when it came close to us, opened the shrowd, and discovered a skeleton, horrid to behold. Many of the children, and even women, were alarmed, and cried piteously. The spectre then retired by degrees, and seemed to vanish through the roof; immediately after which, a sound, resembling thunder and rain, was distinctly heard, and added to the dismay. By means of this science, they can

introduce on the stage the exact semblance of any hero of antiquity, or the likeness of any absent friend: and this art was formerly used by necromancers to deceive people, by leading them to suppose they possessed supernatural powers.

The Public Library of Paris contains nearly a million of books, in various languages, and upon all subjects. Its establishment is the most liberal I have any where met with, as the people are permitted to enter it gratis, and have not only permission to read there the whole day, but to make extracts, or even to copy any book in the collection.

In this city there are thirteen opera or play-houses, several of which I visited: and, upon the whole, I think the French operas are superior to those of London, both

in respect to the singers and the dancers. There are also several places for equestrian performances; and the ball-rooms for dancing are innumerable.

CHAP. XXIV.

Character of the French. Anecdote of a Barber —of the hotel at Marseilles—Author's reflections. Observations on the appearance and dress of the French Ladies. He meets with several of his English acquaintances—Is displeased at his reception by Mr. Merry, the British Envoy. Anecdote of the people of Mazanderan. Author visited by a sharper—He forms an acquaintance with some of the French Literati—Is invited to Court.

THE French in general, and especially the Parisians, are extremely courteous, affable, and flattering. They never make use of the simple words Yes or No, but have always some circuitous phrase ready, expressive of the honour you confer, or their regret. In

pointing out the road, or explaining any thing to a foreigner, they are indefatigable, and consider such conduct as a proof of their good-breeding and humanity. You may call on a French gentleman at any hour, and relate to him your whole story twice over: he will listen with the greatest patience, and never betray a discontented look. How superior, in this respect, are they to the irritable and surly Englishmen!

Whilst travelling, or when dining at French ordinaries, I was frequently surprised to see with what good-humour the gentlemen put up with bad food, and worse wine; and whenever I complained, they took great pains to persuade me the things were not so bad, or that the master of the house was not in fault. The French appear always happy, and do not vex themselves with business; for immediately after dinner, they

walk out, and amuse themselves till midnight, in visiting the gardens, and other places of recreation. To most of these places they have admission gratis, the proprietors of them being content with the moderate profit they can make by the sale of coffee, sherbet, ices, &c.; and at the opera or play-houses, where admission is charged for, the prices are not a fourth part what they are in London. It must however be acknowledged, that some of the places of public amusement are so confined and ill contrived, that none but a Frenchman could tolerate them.

In some instances, I think the French have too much apathy and want of exertion, and that the servants take advantage of the forbearance of the better classes. I have often observed the servants neglect their duty, or, in order to avoid a little exertion at first,

bring on themselves double trouble in the end. I shall content myself with quoting two or three trifling instances.

In a London coffee-house, if a gentleman calls for *breakfast*, the waiter will at once bring him all the requisites on a tray, and afterwards eggs or fruit, if called for. This he does to avoid running backward and forward, to which the English have a great objection. But in Paris, although the waiter perfectly knows by experience what articles are requisite, he will first bring the coffee, then the sugar, a third time the milk, and, before you can possibly breakfast, he must have made half a dozen trips to the bar. When a number of persons are assembled, such conduct causes the greatest confusion, and a total want of all comfort.

My barber in Paris used to bring with

him a large copper basin, and a coarse cloth somewhat like the bags out of which the horses in India eat their corn. Having tied the latter under my chin, he then threw some water into the basin, and with a piece of soap having made a quantity of lather, he daubed it all over my face, neck, and breast, while he himself was wet up to the elbow; after which he commenced his operation of shaving. Disgusted with this mode, I asked him one day if he had ever been in England. He answered that he had. "Then," said I, "you must have seen that "there the barbers carry only a small box, "which contains both soap and brush, and "a couple of razors, with which they can "shave fifty people in a morning, without "daubing their customers, or dirtying their "own clothes. Why do not you adopt their "mode?" He replied: "Your observation "is correct: I have both a box and brush

" at home; but as the French do not like " them, and I cannot introduce the fashion, " they have therefore never been used; but " in future I shall bring them for your " use."

During my stay at Marseilles, I resided some time at an hotel in which there was an ordinary, where twenty or thirty persons assembled every day. Unfortunately my sitting room was close to the ordinary, the door of which was allowed to swing backward and forward, and to make a horrid creaking noise, which rendered my room very uncomfortable. I frequently begged of the servants to shut the door after them, or to take some method of stopping the noise. It was all in vain; I might as well have talked to the wind. At length, losing all patience, I entered their apartment, and said: " Gentlemen, if you are not affected

" by the horrid creaking noise and flapping " of this cursed door, what kind of feelings " do you possess? and if it does disturb " you, why do not you remedy the evil?" Some of them appeared surprised at my extreme delicacy, in being so easily annoyed; others, however, had candour enough to confess it was very disagreeable, but did not know what could be done. I replied: " Either insist on the servants shutting the " door every time they go out or come in; " or if you do not find it too cold, set the " back of a chair against it, and let it re- " main always open." They complied with the latter suggestion, and thus relieved themselves and me from the disagreeable noise.

On beholding these inert qualities in the French, I was convinced, that notwithstanding their numbers, skill, and bravery, they

will never gain the superiority over the English; who, although inferior in strength of armies, are persevering and indefatigable in resources and contrivances. It really astonishes me how the French, being so deficient in energy and perseverance, should have acquired so much fame and power.

The men in France are I think better looking than the English; their clothes are made to fit the body, and are of more lively colours; many of them also wear ear-rings and other ornaments.

The French women are tall, and more corpulent than the English, but bear no comparison with respect to beauty. They want the simplicity, modesty, and graceful motions of the English damsels. Their fashion of dressing the hair was to me very disgusting, as it exactly resembled the mode

practised by the common dancing-girls in India; that is, by dividing the hair into ringlets, two of which hung on the cheeks in an affected careless manner. They were also painted to an excessive degree, were very forward, and great talkers. The waists of their gowns were so short and full-bodied, that the women appeared hump-backed; whilst the drapery in front was so scanty as barely to conceal half their bosoms. Although I am by nature amorous, and easily affected at the sight of beauty, and visited every public place in Paris, I never met with a Frenchwoman who interested me.

In Paris I had the good fortune to meet with several of my English friends, and to form an acquaintance with some other gentlemen of that nation. The most distinguished of the former class were Sir Elijah and Lady Impey, and their beautiful

daughter. This gentleman was formerly Lord Chief Justice in Bengal; and it was during the time he presided that Rajah Nundcomar was hanged for forgery. During the early part of the French Revolution, he placed a large sum of money in their funds, and was then endeavouring to procure payment from Buonaparte. He twice asked me to dine with him, and was very attentive to me.

I here also had the pleasure of again meeting my friend Colonel Wombell, from whom I experienced so much civility in Dublin. He was rejoiced to see me, and accompanied me to all the public places. From Mr. and Miss Ogilvy I received the most marked attention.

From General De Boigne, formerly Commander-in-chief of the armies of the

Mahratta prince Mahdajee Scindia, of whose history I have taken some notice in my account of London, I also experienced much civility.

I was much surprised to meet here my shipmate Mr. Grand. He had come to Paris to improve his fortune, through the interest of Madame Talleyrand, to whom he once had the honour of being husband: and I understand she has since procured for him an appointment under the Dutch government, at the Cape of Good Hope.

To Mr. Merry, the British Envoy at Paris, I carried a letter of recommendation from Lord Pelham, then one of his Majesty's Ministers: and although he procured me passports, and, like the Cashmirians, was remarkably courteous and polite, he was, I thought, very deficient in sincerity and

friendship. His conduct on this occasion reminded me of an anecdote of the inhabitants of Mazanderan, who, being excessively lazy and indifferent about religion, neglected to attend divine service on the Sabbath. The superintendant having noticed this conduct, threatened to punish them: they however endeavoured to excuse themselves by saying, That if they spent the day in prayer, their children must go supperless to bed. The superintendant represented their case to the king, who, being a just and compassionate prince, ordered the treasurer to pay these poor people an allowance every Friday, that they might be then enabled to perform their spiritual duties, without injury to their temporal concerns. In consequence of this regulation, the people were obliged to attend the mosque at the hour of prayer; but it was noticed that they never performed the previous ablution,

without which prayer has no efficacy. The superintendant was incensed at their conduct, and having summoned the seniors of them to his tribunal, said, " Now that his " most gracious majesty has been pleased " to give you an allowance sufficient for the " support of yourselves and families for the " Sabbath, how does it happen that although " you attend at the mosque, you do not per- " form your ablutions, without which you " must be sensible your prayers can be of no " avail?" They replied: " The allowance " made us by the king is for *prayer:* if his " majesty is anxious we should perform " *ablution*, let him give us an allowance for " *that* also." Thus Mr. Merry complied with the *letter* of Lord Pelham's recommendation, but overlooked the *spirit* of it; and had I not met with other friends in Paris, my journey through France would have been a very uncomfortable one. I must however

acknowledge myself indebted to him for his *advice*, in consequence of which I relinquished my original plan of proceeding to Constantinople through Germany and Hungary, and was thereby four months and a half in performing a journey (to be detailed in the sequel) which Colonel Harcourt effected in twenty-one days, about the same period.

Shortly after my arrival in Paris, I was visited by a person who spoke Persian fluently, and, although dressed as a Turk, professed to be a Christian, and called himself Fertekulin. When we became better acquainted, I asked him what was his real history. He replied in a low tone of voice: "My proper name is Syed Mohammed. I "was born in Persia, but have long resided "in Constantinople. I have travelled over "great part of the world, and can speak "eleven languages; but I do not wish it to

" be known here that I am a Mohammedan." When I arrived at Constantinople, I made inquiries respecting this man's character; and learned that he was one of the owls (*sharpers*) of that city, and that his parents were Greeks of the lowest class.

...

In Paris I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with several of the French Literati, some of whom possessed a considerable knowledge of the Oriental languages, especially M. Langley and M. De Sacy. These two gentlemen visited me daily: neither of them spoke Persian well; but as they had studied Arabic, and read a few poetical Persian books, they translated several of my odes into French verse with much facility; and I found them much quicker in comprehension than any Englishman I had met with. Perhaps the French language approaches nearer to the Persian

idiom than English; or, that our poetical expressions are more congenial to their ideas than to those of the inhabitants of a colder climate. These gentlemen promised they would publish my compositions in their periodical papers.

About a fortnight before I left Paris, I received several messages from M. Talleyrand, requesting I would favour him with a visit. I was also waited on by M. Jabere, the Government Oriental Interpreter, with an invitation from Buonaparte to attend his levee. I was unfortunately unwell at that time, and afterwards had not an opportunity of paying my respects to those two great men.

CHAP. XXV.

The Author sets out for Lyons—Account of his journey. Description of the city of Lyons—Curious mode of building—Dyeing Manufactory. The Author visits the house wherein the late General Martin was born. He takes his passage on board a boat for Avignon—Account of his voyage—Description of Le Pont de St. Esprit. He cultivates an acquaintance with M. Barnou—Arrives at Avignon—Sets out in a Diligence for Marseilles—Description of that city—Hospitably entertained by the Governor and his family—He forms an acquaintance with several American gentlemen—Engages a passage to Genoa.

As I was anxious to pursue my journey, I made but a short stay in Paris; and on the 1st of Rubby al Avul (1st of July) set out in a *post-chaise* (probably *diligence*) for

Lyons. As the fare charged for this post-chaise was three guineas, I had flattered myself that I should have been better accommodated, and travelled quicker, than in the coach which brought me from Calais to Paris. I was however much disappointed, when I got into the carriage, to find that it was already occupied by two Frenchmen and a woman, besides an Italian female as an outside passenger.

We travelled from sun-rise till nine o'clock at night, with the rapidity of an English waggon, and then stopped to sup and sleep. Of my companions inside, not one of them understood a word of English; they were beside the most selfish and unfeeling people I have met with in all my travels. They had secured the best places in the carriage for themselves; and when I requested one of them would exchange

with me for a short time, according to the English custom, they not only refused, but laughed at my distress. Also when we stopped at night, they immediately ran and secured the best beds; and the inn-keeper, finding I did not understand French, and had nobody to take my part, put me into a shabby dirty room. The third day, the Italian female, compassionating my situation, made me understand, partly by signs, that I should threaten, if they did not give me a good bed, that I would sleep in the carriage, and not pay them for a room. By following her advice, I afterwards succeeded in getting a tolerable apartment. We were five days performing a journey of two hundred and twenty miles; during which time my situation was very disagreeable and uncomfortable, and diminished the pleasure I ought to have enjoyed in travelling through so fine a country.

Lyons is one of the finest cities in France, and has a broad river (the Saone), resembling a canal, running through the middle of it; both sides of which are lined with stone: it is navigable for very large boats. On the side of this river is a broad walk, well shaded by trees. There is also, on the outside of the town, another large and rapid river (the Rhone), into which the former empties itself; and over both are several very handsome bridges.

There are in this city several magnificent public buildings, all of hewn stone. The gates also are very lofty, and have capacious apartments for the guards, or porters.

Many of the houses in the new town are built of clay, in a manner well worthy of imitation. A mould of planks is first formed, the length of the required wall,

and about two feet high: this is placed on the foundation, and filled up with well-kneaded clay; after which it is allowed to stand for two or three days, till the clay is well dried: it is then taken to pieces, and placed on the wall, when a second layer of clay is put into it, which soon joins the lower one; and when it is dry enough, the mould is again removed, and continued in this manner till the wall is completed: the angles are then built up with unburnt bricks. By this means the walls are formed quite straight and perpendicular: they are afterwards plastered over with mortar, and look quite as well as if they were made of burnt bricks, and, if the top is preserved from rain, will last as long. These walls have two advantages over the mud walls of India: in the first place, they are much better looking, and, in the second, are more rapidly erected.

Lyons being famous for its dyeing manufactories, I gave them one of my turbans to dye, as an experiment: they brought it home the following day, a very beautiful purple colour, and so well done, that it lasted me several months, exposed to a hot sun, without fading, for which they only charged eighteen-pence: whereas in London I always paid four shillings for the operation, and notwithstanding the coldness of that climate, the colours vanished in ten or twelve days.

The vicinity of Lyons produces a variety of delicious fruits, especially cherries, which are the largest and finest I have ever met with: but, as every situation has its advantages and disadvantages, the heat of the climate, and the rivers which surround this town, breed millions of mosquitoes and other insects, which are so troublesome as

to oblige the inhabitants to make use of gauze curtains for their beds.

It was a curious circumstance, that adjoining to the Hotel de Milan, where I resided, stood the house in which my old acquaintance, the famous General Martin, of Lucknow, was born. It is still occupied by his nephew; and the General bequeathed a large sum of money to build a college in the vicinity. A friend accompanied me to see the house; and although the master was absent, we took the liberty of viewing every part of it.

I spent three days in Lyons, very much to my satisfaction: and as I was tired of travelling in a *post-chaise*, I now resolved to proceed by water to Marseilles. I accordingly engaged my passage, for a guinea, in one of the large boats which navigate

the Rhone, and embarked early the following morning. These boats are made somewhat like the *budgerows* of Bengal; but the cabins are appropriated to the reception of bales and other merchandise, and the only accommodation left for the passengers is on the deck.

In this conveyance there was no want of society, there being, in all, twenty-five passengers of both sexes on board. Unfortunately it was the very height of the summer, and not a cloud could be seen in the whole hemisphere; the heat of the sun was therefore intense. Some of the passengers attempted to shelter themselves among the bales; others laid down on the deck, and spread blankets over them, preferring the heat of the wool to the rays of the sun; and a few got possession of a small carpet, which they tied to the shrowds,

and formed an awning. As I had a silk umbrella with me, and had been well inured to the sun in India, I supposed I could brave its effects in France with impunity. I however lost the whole of the skin off my face the first day; and suffered so much distress, that I frequently wished myself in the *post-chaise* again.

Fortunately, the current was very rapid, and the boat went at the rate of seventy or eighty miles a day. Soon after noon we stopped at an inn on the banks of the river, to dine; and at night again stopped to sleep.

About the middle of the second day we passed under a bridge (aqueduct) which was built by order of one of the Cæsars, after the conquest of France by the Romans: it is called *Le Pont de St. Esprit*, and is celebrated throughout all Europe. Although

it was built more than two thousand years ago, it appears quite modern; and contrary to the general mode of constructing bridges, with an elevation in the centre, this is nearly level: it contains twenty-one large, and eight small, arches: the former are all wide, but the center one is the largest I have ever seen. At this place the river is broader, and more rapid, than the Thames at London: and the bridge itself is more magnificent than any in England.

During the three days I was on board this boat, I endeavoured to forget the heat, in admiring the beauty of the country we passed through. I was also much entertained by a young couple, who thought of nought but love, and whose whole affections and attention were devoted to each other. They sat at one corner of the deck, and never spoke to any other person. When-

ever they thought their fellow-travellers were either asleep, or intent upon any other object, the youth used to solicit a kiss; and the lady, under pretence of whispering in his ear, would sometimes, with timid looks, gratify his wish. They probably thought they were not perceived, as most of the passengers had their backs turned towards them; and as I did not wish to interrupt their happiness, I merely glanced at them through the corner of my eye.

To compensate for the inconveniences which I suffered during this journey, I had the good fortune to form an acquaintance, on board the boat, with M. Barnou, one of the most liberal and friendly gentlemen I have ever met with. He was nephew to the Governor of Marseilles, who had formerly held the office of *Vizier*, and was himself a captain in the French artillery. He was adorned

with every perfection, and spoke English fluently. This amiable young man, perceiving my distress, did every thing he could to alleviate it: he was my interpreter on all occasions, and not only prevented my being imposed upon, but always procured for me, where we stopped, the best things, and the best bed in the inn.

On the evening of the third day we arrived at Avignon; where I learned that, as the course of the river does not approach nearer to Marseilles, I must pursue my journey to that city by land. I therefore quitted the boat, and returned thanks to God for my liberation from such thraldom. Being, however, anxious to get to the end of my journey, I went immediately, and engaged a place in the *diligence*, which I understood would set out in the morning, and for which I paid a guinea. I then returned

to the inn, with an intention of eating a hearty supper, and of refreshing myself by a few hours of sleep, before I recommenced my journey; but scarcely was supper over, when the carriage drove up to the door, and the coachman called loudly for his passengers. I was therefore under the necessity of taking a hasty leave of M. Barnou, who had some business to detain him for three or four days longer at Avignon.

When I entered the *diligence*, I found there were three men in it before me, but, it being dark, I did not regard them; and as they soon fell asleep I did not experience any molestation from them during the night. In the morning, I discovered that they were three mean-looking Frenchmen. One of them was of a short stature, very much wrinkled, and sat in a bent posture. They attempted to enter into conversation with

me; but as I did not understand their language, I scarcely made them any answer. About eight o'clock we were joined by another traveller, a handsome young woman, with remarkably fine eyes and long black hair. She was a native of Egypt, and, although born of Christian parents, spoke Arabic fluently. She had not been many minutes seated in the carriage, when the squalid little wretch I have before mentioned, having raised himself up, began to joke with her, and to take liberties both with his tongue and his hands: the others, encouraged by his example, attempted to do the same, and made signs for me to join with them; but I refused, with indignation. The courageous young woman, however, instead of crying at such brutal treatment, as a Hindoostany girl would, opposed them manfully, and abused them, in Arabic, most grossly: with this they seemed much de-

lighted, and, although they did not understand the language, did all in their power to make her repeat the words again, and requested her to explain the meaning in French. They even snatched my cane, and struck her several severe blows with it. The scoundrel of a coachman, who ought to have protected her, seemed not only to enjoy the sport, but, when she was getting out of the carriage, had the impudence to lay his hand upon her bosom. When we again entered the carriage, I gave her my seat in the corner, placing myself between her and the most powerful of her adversaries, and was rejoiced to find she had sufficient strength to contend with the little wretch opposite her: they however continued to tease her the whole day, and, in fact, until we arrived at Marseilles, when we alighted, and all separated. I however met the young woman in the street, next day: she was grateful for

my civility, and was of considerable service to me during my residence in that city.

Marseilles is a large and handsome town, and one of the most celebrated sea-ports of France. It is consequently resorted to by the merchants of all the countries on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, especially of Italy, Turkey, Barbary, and Egypt. It is also famous for the manufacture of silks, satins, and gold stuffs; and I was informed, that its trade amounts annually to fifty-two crores of rupees (£.52,000,000).

The public buildings are all of stone. The houses are, in general, lofty, and have handsome porticoes over the doors. The streets are regular, well paved, very wide, and divided into three portions, as in London. One of the institutions of this city afforded me much satisfaction: In each of

the squares, or principal streets, they have large reservoirs of water, which are supplied from some distant springs, and the water conveyed to them either through a cascade or *jet d'eau*. On one side of the reservoir, a place is constructed for the cattle to drink, which is filled from the overflowing of the reservoir. The water is then conducted to two small canals, which run on each side of the street, whence the people supply themselves with water for common use, or for sprinkling the roads to lay the dust; a measure which, if not indispensable in so hot a climate, is, at all events, a great luxury. Some of the roads in the vicinity of Marseilles are planted with shady trees, and are laid out in the same manner as the Boulevards of Paris.

The gardens in this neighbourhood produce a great variety of very fine fruits. The musk-melons are superior to any I have ever

eaten, and much finer than those produced in the English hot-houses. Unfortunately, they do not continue in season for above a month.

I had taken the precaution to bring from Paris a letter of recommendation to Monsieur Samadite, one of the most opulent merchants of Marseilles; and the day after my arrival I waited on that gentleman. He received me in the most hospitable and friendly manner, and procured for me a handsome apartment in the hotel situated near his own house; but as in the coffee-houses of the south of France there is not any good butter or cream to be had, their breakfasts are very indifferent, consisting merely of coffee and dry toast. M. Samadite therefore requested, as I had been accustomed to good English breakfasts, that I would always eat that meal at his house,

and also dine there whenever I was disengaged. This gentleman is by birth a Swiss, but was educated in France, and, although a merchant, possesses a most liberal and generous disposition. I dined with him frequently during my stay at Marseilles. His table was covered with the choicest viands and the finest wines. His parties generally consisted of fourteen or fifteen of the most respectable persons of that city. After dinner we adjourned to the play-house or opera, for which he always presented me with a ticket, and would by no means consent that I should pay for admission. During the fifteen days that I remained in Marseilles, he was constantly endeavouring to procure me a passage on board a good ship bound directly to Constantinople; but as he was unsuccessful, he requested I would continue with him till a favourable opportunity offered.

A few days after my arrival at Marseilles, my friend Monsieur Barnou called on me, and the same day introduced me to his uncle the Governor, M. Wilgrove, a person of noble deportment and friendly disposition. As at this period Buonaparte had issued a new coinage which bore his image, there were great rejoicings throughout all France. The houses of Marseilles were illuminated at night, and the Governor entertained the inhabitants by feasts and balls. He also requested that I would each day favour him with my company; with which I complied, and had an opportunity of seeing all the handsome women of that part of the country: none of them however pleased me, and they were certainly not to be compared with the English women.

As this was quite an unexpected pleasure, I spent my time very agreeably in Marseilles.

The worthy Governor did me the honour also of asking me to several of his private parties; and introduced me to his lady, a most amiable woman, and to his son, one of the finest youths I have ever seen. This young man was studying English, and daily called on me to converse with me, and to shew me the curiosities of the city and its vicinity. In short, the whole of this family are so much respected and beloved in Marseilles, that there is not an inhabitant of the place who would not risk his life for their sakes.

In Marseilles you meet with persons of all nations, and there are a number of Greek and Egyptian families settled here. The women of these countries are very beautiful, and dress in the most becoming manner: in short, if they possessed the fine complexions of the English, they would be the handsomest women in the world.

In this city I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with Mr. Alderby, a young Englishman, who was pursuing his studies, and who was very useful to me on many occasions. I also received the most marked attention from the Society of Anglo-American Gentlemen: they did me the honour of giving me a public dinner at the Franklin Hotel: after which they pressed me much to give up my intention of proceeding to India over-land, and to embark on board one of their vessels bound to America, from the ports of which they assured me there were constantly excellent ships sailing to Calcutta. To this plan I would not accede, but promised, if I ever returned to Europe, to go by the route of America. Pleased with this declaration, each of them wrote his name and place of abode on a sheet of paper, which they gave me, and desired me, on my arrival in their country, to inquire for them.

After a residence of fifteen days in Marseilles, and finding there was no chance of procuring a direct passage to Constantinople, I resolved to proceed, with two American gentlemen, to Genoa; whence, I was informed, I should meet with many opportunities of continuing my journey. I accordingly engaged a passage on board a small French vessel bound to that port, for which I agreed to pay three guineas, and to find my own provisions.

CHAP. XXVI.

The Author embarks for Genoa. Description of the Mediterranean Sea. He arrives at Genoa —is hospitably entertained by the American Consul—His description of the city—Admiration of Italian Music—Courtezans—Cicisbeos. The Author embarks for Leghorn, with an intention of visiting Rome. He arrives at Leghorn—Description of that city—Scarcity of water—Distress of the Author, who is nearly assassinated—Account of the inhabitants. He cultivates an acquaintance with some Armenians. The L'Heureuse ship of war arrives at Leghorn with a tender—The British Consul promises the Author a passage in the latter—The Master refuses to take him—He applies to the Captain of the L'Heureuse, who consents to receive him on board. He quits Leghorn.

On the 25th of the month Rubby al Avul (the 25th of July), having taken leave of

the Governor of Marseilles, of M. Barnou, and of my other friends, we embarked, and were soon under weigh. I had before given some account of the Mediterranean, or Sea of Roum, but shall now enter into a more particular detail. The Mediterranean is in length two thousand four hundred miles, and in breadth from twenty-six to six hundred. The narrowest part of it is called the Strait of Gibraltar, being a corruption of the Arabic name *Jebbal Tur*, the Promontory of *Toor* a Moorish chief. From this sea there are two branches: one, which runs to the north, between the shores of Italy, and till it touches Trieste in Germany, is denominated the Sea of Venice: the other, which runs along the shore of Greece, is called the Ionian; from this a narrow arm extends to Constantinople, which is named the Sea of Marmora, and there forms a junction with the Black Sea. The proper boundaries of

the Mediterranean (which is itself but a branch of the great Ocean) are, to the north, Spain, and other countries of Europe; on the east, Syria and Palestine; and on the south, Fez, Barbary, and other regions of Africa. Its western boundary is the strait above mentioned, which being commanded by the impregnable fortress in possession of the English, supported by several ships of war, gives that nation a great influence in the navigation of this sea, from which they appear to be entirely shut out by Nature.

During this voyage nothing extraordinary occurred; but as the vessel was very small, and much agitated by the waves, I was for two days very unwell, and perfectly indifferent about food. On the third day I recovered; and finding a keen appetite, I inquired for the stock which I had brought on board, but it was nowhere to be found, the

crew having no doubt stolen it. I was therefore obliged to live, for the remainder of the voyage, on bad biscuit, and vinegar mixed with water.

On the fifth day we arrived in the Bay of Genoa, and had scarcely anchored when a *health* boat came on board. This part of the world having been frequently visited by that horrid disease called *the Plague*, they never permit any person to land from a ship till it has been visited by a physician, who examines the countenance of every person on board, and makes such other inquiries as he may deem requisite. If he finds that any person has died during the voyage, or suspects that there is any one diseased on board, he orders the ship to anchor in a particular place, where she remains for forty days; and such of the passengers or crew who wish to get on shore are compelled to

remain for the same period in an hospital called *the Lazaretto;* whence if any attempt to escape, the guards shoot them as they would a mad dog. The physician who came on board our ship was a meagre, sallow-looking person, who appeared as if just risen from the bed of sickness; whilst our crew were handsome healthy fellows. Having first looked at us, and then at himself, he seemed as if ashamed of the comparison, and, without examining our certificates, granted us permission to land.

I immediately accompanied Mr. Shoolbred and Mr. Jolly, the American passengers, to the Red Lion Hotel. We afterwards paid our respects to Mr. Wilson, the American Consul, to whom I brought a letter of introduction from M. Samadite, and met with a most gracious and friendly reception. We dined with the Consul the

three days we remained in this city, and were entertained in an hospitable and sumptuous manner.

The situation of Genoa is beautiful, and the city itself very superb. It is built round the bay, which is circular: and had I not visited the Cove of Cork, I should have thought it the handsomest harbour in Europe. The public buildings and most of the houses are constructed of hewn stone, very lofty, and adorned with pillars, porticoes, &c. Some of the streets are very wide and regular; others are so narrow that the sun never shines on them; but as the town is built on an acclivity, and the streets are well paved, no mud or filth is ever to be seen in them. The town, which is constructed in the form of a crescent, is entirely surrounded by strong fortifications, both on the land side and towards the sea,

so that they are well prepared to resist all their enemies.

The interior parts of the houses are richly fitted up; but painted in such gawdy colours, that I, who prefer plain fashions, could not approve their taste. I must however acknowledge, that Genoa is, on the whole, the handsomest city I have ever seen.

The inhabitants of Genoa are all proficients in the science of music, and possess a greater variety of instruments than I have seen elsewhere. One night I was reposing on my bed, when I was roused by the most charming melody in the street I had ever heard. I started up, and involuntarily ran down stairs to the street door, but found it was locked, and the key taken away: I therefore hastened again to my room, and

felt every inclination to throw myself out of the window; when, fortunately, the musicians stopped, and my senses returned.

I had frequently been informed, in London, that the Italians excelled all the world in their skill in music; and I here acknowledge, that the Indian, Persian, and Western Europe music bears the same comparison to the Italian that a mill does to a fine-toned organ.

The regulations of Genoa respecting courtezans are of a most extraordinary nature. These women never appear in the streets, either in the day or night, but have smart-dressed footmen stationed at every corner, to invite gentlemen to their lodgings.

A still more extraordinary custom in

this country is, that every woman of fashion has two husbands, between whom she equally divides her time. The first husband is obliged to pay all her expences, and provide her with a house and accommodations of every kind; for which he has the privilege of sleeping with her, and of being called the father of all her children. The business of the second husband is, to attend her during the day, to escort her to all public places, and, in short, implicitly to obey all her orders, and to comply with all her whims and fancies. If, during the day, the first husband is by chance engaged with his wife, and the second should knock at the door, the former immediately retires. These second husbands are called *Cicisbeos*: they are, in general, well-looking young men that have no legitimate wife of their own; but it sometimes happens, that elderly men, regularly married, become *cicisbeos*

to the wives of some of their acquaintance.

The vicinity of Genoa produces very delicious melons of both kinds; also abundance of peaches, plums, grapes, and other fruits.

On the second day after my arrival, Mr. Wilson informed me that there was an opportunity of proceeding immediately to Leghorn, which he advised me to embrace, and, by all means, if I wished to see the *greatest wonder of the world*, to proceed thence, by the route of Florence, to Rome; and, after having satisfied my curiosity at that place, to travel to Naples, whence I should find no difficulty in procuring a passage to Malta. I approved highly of his advice, and, accompanied by Mr. Jolly, went immediately and engaged a passage to

Leghorn, on board an English ship commanded by Captain Royston.

We embarked early next morning; and during the voyage the Captain behaved in the most friendly manner, entertained us with the greatest hospitality, and resigned to me his own cabin and bed. In two days we reached Leghorn; and, upon producing our certificate of health, we were immediately permitted to land, and proceeded to the Guiny Hotel. I shortly after waited upon Mr. Grant, the British Consul, to whom I had a letter of introduction: he received me politely, and informed me that an English ship of war was daily expected from Malta, upon which he would procure me a passage for that island. I inquired whether I could not proceed to Florence, as it was my intention to visit Rome, and thence to go to Naples; but learned that the journey, at

this hot season of the year, was considered very dangerous, on account of an epidemical fever which raged with great violence through the interior of Italy. I was therefore obliged to relinquish my intention of seeing the most celebrated city in Europe, although Mr. Wilson had furnished me with letters of recommendation to persons of consequence, in Florence, Rome, and Naples.

Leghorn, though a very celebrated port, and resorted to by all the nations on the shores of the Mediterranean, is a small city. A person may stand in the middle of it, and with great ease see the four principal gates. It is however surrounded with strong fortifications, and the houses are, in general, four or five stories high. The town is extremely confined, and the houses very inconvenient, dreadfully hot, and swarming

with mosquitoes, bugs, and other vermin. Good water is scarce; and the squares in which the public fountains are situated are very confined. The water runs so slowly from the artificial fountains, that one person is half an hour filling his vessel; and I have often seen the people stoop, and suck the cock, to open its vent. During this time, a crowd of people are waiting in the square till it is their turn to approach the pipe, and they often quarrel and fight about it. As it was impossible to get a draught of cool water in their houses, I frequently went to the fountain, but seldom succeeded in being able to quench my thirst.

The heat being at all times excessive in the house, I generally walked out early in the afternoon, and sometimes sat down under the shade of a wall, or wandered into a coffee-house, to pass away the time. At

night, I used to go and sit in the porch of a large church which is situated in one of the squares about the middle of the town, in order to catch a little fresh air. May the curse of God light on such a city! and on such people! who, notwithstanding their boasted wealth, are such avaricious knaves, that they would plunder a stranger of his last penny.

One night I was sitting, according to custom, on the steps of the church, when a fellow came behind, and snatched off my turban. By the merest chance, one end of the muslin was loose, which I laid hold of; and rising up, I attempted to catch the fellow: but, as he had a knife in his hand, he immediately cut the turban in two pieces, and ran off with the half of it. When I related this circumstance to my English acquaintances, they cautioned me

never to sit there again, nor to go out alone at night; as the Italians frequently, from bigotry or other prejudices, assassinate foreigners, by stabbing them with a knife or dagger. It is thus also that the Italians revenge an affront, or supposed injury.

In Leghorn there is a great variety of fruit to be met with; but their *water-melons* are superior to any I have ever seen, and are twice the size of those produced at Allahabad or Mainpoory, which are esteemed the best in India.

The greater number of the inhabitants of this city are Jews, Greeks, and Armenians, all of whom are of a covetous and parsimonious disposition. One of my English acquaintances, thinking it would be gratifying to me to meet with a person who understood the Persian language, took me

to the house of an Armenian merchant, who was born at Julfa, a suburb of Ispahan, in order to introduce me to him. When we arrived at the Armenian's house, he was at dinner, but sent out his son in a great hurry, with instructions to say that his father was very unwell, and had quite forgotten the Persian language.

I frequently met, in the coffee-houses, with another Armenian, named Khojeh Raphael, who was also born at Julfa, but pretended to be ignorant of the language of that city. He was a complete old scoundrel, who had seen a great deal of the world, and understood a number of languages. He had left Persia when a young man, and went by sea to Surat: thence he proceeded across the Peninsula to Bengal: after residing there for some time, he made a voyage to England, and from that country

went to Russia; and after travelling over great part of the continent of Europe, at length settled, as a merchant, at Leghorn. He called on me several times, but was never of the smallest service; and was so over cautious, that he would not even assist me with his advice, respecting the route I should pursue.

To compensate for the want of friendship in the Armenians, I had the pleasure of forming an intimacy with Mr. Darby, an English merchant, who had been long settled in this city. He frequently carried me with him to his country-house, situated six miles from Leghorn, where I enjoyed the fresh air, and every luxury he could procure. To this gentleman I related all my grievances; and as I had lost all patience at my detention in so disagreeable a place, I fear I often tired him with my complaints: he

however said, and did, all in his power to comfort me.

At the end of a fortnight, the *L'Heureuse*, an English man of war, with a tender, arrived from Malta. This circumstance gave me much joy; and I lost no time in requesting Mr. Grant, the Consul, to procure me a passage; but instead of adhering to his original promise, he never mentioned my name to Captain Richard: and having sent for the master of the tender, desired him to take me on board. As I was anxious to get away from Leghorn in any way, I did not object to this arrangement; and having hired a small boat, I rowed out several miles, to where the tender was at anchor. When I got on board, the master informed me, that, without Captain Richard's permission, he dared not take me with him, but that he would go on board the

L'Heureuse, and ask his leave to do so. He returned in a very short time, and told me, that Captain Richard had positively forbidden him to take me. I replied, that he had behaved very ill, in not informing the Consul how he was circumstanced, before he gave me the trouble of coming to his ship.

After some consideration, I resolved to go myself to Captain Richard, and explain to him my uncomfortable situation. When I reached the L'Heureuse, I was politely received; and having introduced myself to the Captain, requested he would permit me to embark on board the tender for Malta. He replied: "I have not any other objec-
"tion, but that, if this tender falls in with
"any other ship of war, the captain may
"take away all her stores, and order the
"master to proceed to England: in which
"case you will have the pleasure of paying

"a second visit to your friends there." I was much distressed at this intelligence; but, taking courage, said, "Sir, your ship, "at all events, is not liable to such an "accident; and if you can feel for a "traveller in distress, allow me to come "on board here." Captain Richard was touched with sympathy, and said, "Sit "down, and dine with my officers; after "which, return to the tender, and bring "your luggage on board the L'Heureuse; "whilst I, in the mean time, go and settle "some business on shore."

When I returned to the tender, the master gave me such an account of Captain Richard's irritable temper and other supposed bad qualities, that I was alarmed, and resolved to go back to Leghorn, there to wait for some other opportunity. Having put my trunks into the boat, I rowed to

the shore, and again took possession of my lodgings.

When Captain Richard returned to his ship, and found that I had not come on board, he sent for the master of the tender; and having learnt from him that I had gone back to Leghorn, he instantly ordered his barge, and came on shore. On his way to my lodgings, he called on my friend Mr. Darby; and having brought him along with him, they both insisted upon my immediately taking my luggage on board the L'Heureuse. To this I consented; and early next morning, being the 21st of Rubby Assany (about the 20th of August), we quitted Leghorn.

END OF VOL. II.

R. Watts, Printer, Broxbourne.

00088257

Due Date
31 JUL 1982

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 21 October, 2015